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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1923

The University Idea.

A pamphlet has been issued by Professors E. C. Branson and J. A. Dickey, of the University of North Carolina, after investigating certain farm tenancies in Chatham county, which we can not allow to pass without notice. Certain recommendations are made with reference to taxation designated as "Constructive suggestions;" we would designate some of them as destructive suggestions. The authors inform us that the recommendations are efforts "not so much for immediate adoption as for popular discussion aimed at changes in the tax laws of the State as rapidly as practical wisdom may dictate." We will have to accept the invitation to enter this discussion, because it is clear that the authors do not expect any "immediate adoption" of such radical proposals, but only hope by process of propaganda to get these ideas into the public mind.

There are some suggestions in the pamphlet which are commendable; for instance, where property is covered by a mortgage the authors would tax only the equity in the hands of the owner and the mortgage in the hands of the mortgagee. We have always thought that our present system of taxing both to the full value is in effect double taxation, though the courts have held otherwise as a matter of law.

But on the other hand there is so much in the pamphlet that would upset, if adopted, property rights and even personal rights in North Carolina, that public opinion should be directed to these questions. We can not designate the idea as other than the "University idea" because it emanates from the chief seat of learning of the State and from men paid by the State and authorized by the State to promote the social views for which the University stands. Among other things we note the following:

"By what essential right, human or divine, may a man retain the possession of land that he will not or can not put to productive uses? He has the right in common law, statute law, and organic law in every county of Christendom, but landless men are more and more beginning to question it. It is a question that involves more than law."

Does the University question the authority or the wisdom of the common law upon which our entire property rights are based? Does it attempt to deny the wisdom of a system which "every county in Christendom" has adopted as the best system of property and personal rights? Does it mean to promulgate the idea that, because some people have been less fortunate than others in the accumulation of property their demands against those who have been industrious should involve "more than law." Does it hope to array landless men against established property titles in this State?

The authors refer to the fact that there are twenty-eight thousand thirty white tenants and fourteen thousand negro tenants in North Carolina, and as a matter of eliminating them from the fate of tenancy they would put the tax on undeveloped lands of the farmer so high that he would have to turn them loose to the thrifty man around the farm who has never succeeded as a tenant nor as a land owner. As a means of making it impossible for a farmer to hold his unused lands the following tax scheme is devised against him:

"Definitely low tax rates on homes occupied by owners and on farms op-

erated by landlords thereof; definitely higher tax rates on unused town lots and farm lands."

The first clause above appeals to us all and might lead us to unconsciously approve the whole programme; but a "definitely higher tax on unused town lots or unimproved farm lands" is confessedly designed for the purpose of forcing the owner of unimproved farm land to turn it loose to be picked up by those who in our opinion would make no better use of it. To show the further purpose of this plan we quote as follows from the pamphlet:

"Estate or inheritance tax, transfer tax or increased sale values, progressive land taxes and the like are social ways of calling into question the rights of private property in land," and the authors cite certain countries adopting this view.

The authors admittedly question the rights of private property in land and refer to the twenty-two million idle acres of farm land in North Carolina. This land is owned by farmers as pasturage, as means of growing timber, and for other uses. They have purchased it and paid for it through years of toil and hardship, and it is by this proposed system of taxation that these twenty-two million acres of land would be prized away from its present ownership and for no other purpose than that it may perhaps fall into the hands of those who have not heretofore utilized the opportunities given them. The fact that New Zealand and other foreign countries have adopted such "progressive land tax" system does not appeal to us in the slightest; and we believe that an effort to put such a system in effect in North Carolina would be nothing less than revolutionary. This pamphlet could be circulated in Russia without the slightest fear of censorship, and we regret to see the University of North Carolina promoting such doctrines.

Inviting Capital.

We noticed in one of the big New York dailies recently a story with reference to a big venture of J. B. Duke, a native of North Carolina, who proposes big water power development for Canada, and we quote from that story as follows:

"In that part of the Province of Quebec where the waters of Lake St. John find their outlet through the Saguenay River, there is in a section where a quiet farming community has existed for many years—men are busy on a development scheme which will have a far-reaching influence upon the industries of Canada, and quite possible upon those of the whole world. It is hoped that within a comparatively short time this tiny and hitherto insignificant backwoods district will be transformed into a vast hive of industry, the seat of great manufacturing enterprises."

This refers to a scheme of Mr. Duke to develop the water power of the Saguenay River upon which he proposes to spend \$75,000,000.00 and to develop 1,200,000 horse power. Mr. Duke is at the head of and the chief owner of the Southern Power Company, doing business in North Carolina, which has developed 550,000 horse power capacity. Since Mr. Duke's advent in North Carolina he has almost continuously been in a fight in the courts or before the legislature. We do not know whether he or the adverse parties are right in these fights, but it is a fact that he has had to fight his way through in order to maintain and preserve his North Carolina investment according to his views, whether they be right or wrong.

We can not but regret that Mr. Duke has found it more advantageous to go to Canada to invest another \$75,000,000.00 rather than to invest this in North Carolina. We concede to him the right to go where the invitation is most cordial and attractive. We have a feeling that Mr. Duke probably feels that more of his money would have been invested in North Carolina had he received more encouragement, but whether Mr. Duke is right in this feeling we do not know.

We take these facts as a basis for the argument that not by "boosting" but by fair treatment, and by that we mean treatment as fair as that offered elsewhere, that capital comes and will continue to come to North Carolina. Capital is very much like people—it settles down in communities where it finds surroundings most congenial. If we would develop the State of North Carolina we must do it by the inviting of people and of capital to come here and work our resources. If we would keep them here after they come they must feel that they can do just a little better here than elsewhere. Good roads, good schools and other advantages will do much to induce people to move their families and their money from other states into North Carolina, but when they arrive it is necessary in order to keep them to demonstrate that the advantages here are at least a little better than they are elsewhere.

When foreign fakirs land in New York they decide to stay there and leave all the balance of the country to the oil men.

Raiding the Treasury.

The demands made upon the treasury of the state of North Carolina for the support of the state's institutions and for the completion of the program of improvement already started in North Carolina are no doubt large, and it is regrettable that each enterprise or class of institutions feel called upon to press its claims as more important than the claims of others. However, this is always true because everyone feels a personal duty and responsibility in connection with the work in which he has become interested, and with which he may have some official duty and responsibility. But this policy results in overwhelming the legislature and budget committee with demands which in the total usually exceed what the state is able to grant. We believe that the present tax levies have been made upon the broad plan of the present administration to develop the state's institutions and its resources, and that the income from such tax levies will be sufficient to meet these demands if the state's affairs are economically administered. Under no conditions do we think there should be any increased tax levies at this time, and we do not think that the state as a whole will approve any increased tax levies or any bond issues for operating expenses. Two years ago the legislature was called upon to issue bonds for \$710,000 to cover an operating deficit in the schools. This bond issue could only be justified on the theory that the state had incurred this obligation and that it had to be met, and we think such justification was sufficient; but no business man will pretend to say that it was good business management that brought this about, and no one can excuse a business method which will permit such a deficit in operating expenses. It is simply bad management and nothing else will explain it. None of the departments should call upon the state to make appropriations outside of current revenues to cover operating expenses. We believe that the legislature is going to preserve and continue the plans for the development of the state, but it must be remembered that the expenditures for operation will necessarily have to be confined to the receipts from taxes, and that the tax levies in North Carolina cannot continue to increase. If there is a surplus in the state treasury there will be absolutely no necessity for the increase of tax rates in North Carolina, and the only question is one of economical and safe administration of our affairs.

Surplus or Deficit?
The controversy which has developed at Raleigh as to whether there is a surplus or deficit in the state treasury is unfortunate; in our opinion it is unnecessary. It is, however, important to know whether there is a surplus or a deficit. There should be no difficulty in determining this matter, even without legislative investigation, and we think that the appointment of a committee to investigate the matter is a useless undertaking.

We understand from the treasurer's report that he deals entirely with cash receipts and disbursements and not with prospective income or bills payable. His report shows a deficit of \$1,800,000. It appears that if the income taxes for 1922, which were earned during that year but are collectible in 1923, were added to the treasurer's receipts for 1922, then there would be a large surplus of revenues over and above expenditures for operation. In other words, we are always a year behind in the collection of income taxes. Ad valorem taxes for 1922 are assessable and collectible for that year, but the income taxes earned that year are not determined until after the end of the year, and payable during the first part of the year 1923. It is probably unfortunate that we began to spend the income tax for the year in which it was earned and had to borrow money for that year, as against the collection of the income tax after the year has expired. It would be much better if budgets were made and expenditures made for the same year that the income tax is collectible and not for the year in which it earned.

It seems to us that these facts explain the controversy which has arisen and about which there is much bitterness, and which is entirely unnecessary. Our understanding of the treasurer's report, in which we have the utmost confidence, is that in dealing with collections for 1922 there is a deficit of \$1,800,000; but on the other hand, if the income taxes earned during 1922 could have been paid to the treasurer and had gone into his accounts for the year in which they were earned, there would be a surplus of over \$2,000,000. In other words we have acquired the habit of spending the income tax in the year in which it was earned, and not waiting until the year in which it was collected; and while we think it would have been better to have waited until it was collected to begin spending it, yet we see no real reason in this situation for a heated controversy on the part of those who are opposing the present administrative program.

Veritable Progress Edition.

The Lumberton Robesonian a few days ago issued a "Robeson county development edition," and its comprehensive and excellent character may well be imagined when it is stated that Lumberton's enterprising paper appeared in sections of eight pages each, making up a veritable progress publication of 64 pages. Splendid newspaper work was done on every one of those pages and they portrayed in articles and illustrations a real romance of achievement for North Carolina's largest county. The Robesonian added to it a remarkable achievement of its own in producing a magnificent piece of newspaper publicity for Robeson county and its thriving towns, including Lumberton, Maxton, Fairmont, Red Springs, St. Paul, Rowland and Pembroke.

In agricultural, industrial and forestry production Robeson normally adds from \$40,000,000 to \$50,000,000 each year to the creation of wealth in the great state of North Carolina. Robeson county's banner year in agricultural products, exclusive of livestock, possessed a value of \$20,000,000. Robeson is North Carolina's greatest cotton county, her highest record having been reached when she produced 63,000 bales of cotton. However, her acreage in tobacco, corn and other crops exceeded the acreage in cotton, so that her farms system closely approximates the self-sustaining standard. Nevertheless, Robeson county manufactures the fleece she grows and her urban communities are rapidly developing a cotton textile industry that ideally balances her great prosperity. A wonderful county is Robeson, and one can more completely realize it when he digests the Robesonian's development edition.

Robeson county contains seven banking towns and with but few exceptions we venture to say that this marvelous eastern North Carolina county has more banks within its borders than any other county in the whole state of North Carolina. At least six of those marvelous progressive and thrifty towns contribute their share towards the Robesonian's development edition, for it was an opportunity for them to let the world know that they are vital forces in the development of Robeson county. St. Pauls grabbed a whole eight-page section for herself and distributed her claims in other sections as well.

Of course the city of Lumberton, the county seat, and chief cotton mill center of the county, featured herself, and certainly her progress makes a notable chapter in the development of the towns of the "Lan" of the Long Leaf Pine. Nestling close to the beautiful Lumber river, that town not many years back was a village of 600 population, but now it is a modern city of several thousand souls, destined to become one of the chief industrial counties of eastern North Carolina. Lumberton is a city with handsomely paved streets, waterworks, sewerage, and the modern things which fit her for future development on solid lines as a manufacturing city. She now has four cotton mills and has organized the fifth, which is to be constructed right of way. Her factories are electrically driven, her advantages in every respect for continuous industrial development are obviously superior.

Lumberton has looked forward to the modern life, for she has amply provided herself with churches, hospitals and schools. Recently, an industrial prospector from New England said one of the pre-requisite inducements for him to locate in any city would be its hospital facilities. In that respect, Lumberton has been forevisioned and her hospitals are assets for the whole of Robeson county. The development of Robeson county is featured by industrial growth in her towns, and in the progress steadily going forward in her agriculture. Hard roads threading the county, greatly contribute to the advantages of rural life, and the progressive county has clinched it by building up an efficient county-wide school system carried on in modern school houses which cost from \$20,000 up to \$55,000.

Isolation at Washington.

Under the above caption the Journal of Commerce has made a most striking review of many of the salient factors and forces entering into the present world situation. The subject is treated in such a comprehensive, clear and logical way that we are reproducing the entire editorial for public information. When the article is read throughout the conclusion must be to accentuate the assiduity of such near-statesmen as Lodge, Reed, Johnson, etc. Borah originally belonged to this group, but now gives evidence of having seen the light in a way and to an extent that is most hopeful.

Every day in every way, general progress in North Carolina makes the prospects brighter and brighter. It never is cloudy everywhere at the same time, and it never is cloudy anywhere very long at a time.

IT IS SUNDAY MORNING

BY W. A. STANBURY

SPENDING A SUNDAY
"The Sabbath was made for man."
Mark 2:27.

For most of us, the manner of spending a week day is fixed. One must be at his desk, in office, shop, store, school room, home or field. From Monday until Saturday, it is the grind and toil of the job. This is not saying that there are no joys in work; merely that business is business, and one has to be at it for six work days.

But it is different with Sunday. There is—except for those who are so unfortunate as to have to work on Sunday—but little compulsion for this day. One can order his life and fill his hours much as he will.

So, if he be inclined, he can take the rod and reel, and hie away for the shore for sport. He can take the Packard or the flivver, as the case may be, and go for what he calls an airing and a picnic with the wife and kiddies. He can take a book—of whatever quality he may choose—and spend long, quiet, delightful hours with a favorite author. He can don the golf togs and be off for the green and the sun. He can make himself of some use for once in his life about the house, relieving in a measure and for a little good, patient woman, whose routine, if he had to submit to it, would soon land him in the penitentiary or the insane asylum. Or he can sleep the hours away, and make believe that he is resting from very arduous labors. And then, many to the contrary notwithstanding, he can, along with a great many other very useful things, spend some very profitable hours remembering that he is a living soul, who has to do with God, and has some

Community Chest Campaign.

Wilmington's community chest campaign is now on in earnest, and by the end of the week it is hoped to raise a total of \$51,505 to cover the annual needs of such local organizations and community institutions as the Y. M. C. A., the Y. W. C. A., the Catherine Kennedy Home, the Salvation Army, the Boy Scouts, the Girl Scouts, the community service, and the Travelers' Aid. The combined budget represents the total to which this community is asked to commit itself for carrying on work of inconceivable value to this city, and its environs.

For some years past the good people of Wilmington have voluntarily supported those eight welfare agencies, and it is now incumbent upon the people of the city as a whole to maintain this work on a more systematic basis and in accordance with economic plans which other cities as well as Wilmington have found to be the most practical and the least troublesome. Certainly, Wilmington people recognize the great value of these agencies to the community and to society, and each should conscientiously take a share in contributing to their support by working through each of the organizations, reaching directly the various elements of the community which appeal to our sympathy and support.

The community chest plan of taking care of this necessary welfare work here, was adopted a year ago. Just how well the people of Wilmington will show their benevolence towards work for humanity and posterity depends upon how liberal are their subscriptions to the community budget. These welfare associations are assets in any city, and surely it does not require urging and argument to make right-minded Wilmington people recognize their duty to maintain this work here in our growing city.

The community chest means, organized giving. The possibility is that indiscriminate giving heretofore amounted to considerably more than the budget appropriations which have been very carefully assigned to each welfare agency, for instance \$14,240 for the Y. M. C. A.; \$11,200 to the Y. W. C. A.; \$6,000 to the Salvation Army, \$4,200 to the Boy Scouts, \$2,465; Catherine Kennedy home; \$3,000 to the community service, and \$1,5000 to the Travelers' Aid. These are the minimum appropriations and it will be observed that they are rather small for a city which has for so many years experienced the benefits from the well directed welfare work so faithfully and conscientiously carried on here by these organized agencies, each doing a work that the community could not possibly do, to such great advantage.

CONTEMPORARY VIEWS.

ISOLATION AT WASHINGTON

International isolation does not exist except as an impossible dream. Within a lifetime the cable, the steamship and the locomotive have woven a tough web around the world, that despite dissensions and war will never be broken. Intercourse of all kinds has grown astonishingly during the last half century, while Ja-

spiritual responsibilities towards his fellows. There may be an hour or two with the Bible, a little while in prayer, a season with religious books and magazines, a while in the house of God, giving his deeper and better nature a voice and his soul a bit of living bread. And this last any man may do, at least occasionally, in spite of all the chains of circumstances, if he really wants to do it.

Freedom is the realm of character. By the choice a man makes for his free time on Sunday, as on other days, he makes the measure for himself. It is what a man does when he can do as he pleases that tells the story. It is the same with time as with money. We all have to pay the grocer and the coal man. The spending of the surplus lets the whole world know what a man is really interested in, and what he would like to be—that is, what he is.

So the spending of a Sunday is no unimportant matter. Whatever may be the exceptions, it is your rule to do on Sunday what you really like best to do. If you take the summer Sundays for an all-day game with the surf, it is because you like that better than anything else to be had. If you stay away from God's church habitually, however, much you may profess to esteem the church and worship and religion, it is simply because you do not care enough about it to go. Sunday is your own, and you are spending it as you will.

The Sabbath was made for man. He can use it as he will. How are you going to spend it today?

Interest and sympathy have correspondingly expanded. The end of this movement is not in sight, and it is anticipated to continue until Western civilization is welded in the course of time into one great commonwealth.

Unfortunately, there are many good people in this favored land who still indulge in the illusion that they are entirely self-sufficient. These people are sound at heart, but their views are too often limited by environment and absence of information. In our large coastal cities and in some inland centers, the people are so ignorant that international affairs have a very important bearing upon American prosperity, especially that portion dependent upon our trade with foreign nations.

Every country is anxious to exchange its surplus products with those of other countries despite the obstacles imposed by tariffs and other discriminations. In the United States agriculture is the leading industry. Our farmers produce vast quantities of grain, meat, cotton and fruit that the country can consume; and our producers of textiles, steel, machinery, minerals, oils, etc., do likewise. Among well informed business men it is thoroughly understood that this country would stagnate without foreign markets, and quickly become a swamp of industrial decay. That is what isolation would really mean to the Western farmer, the Southern planter and the Eastern manufacturer upon whom our huge transportation and communication systems absolutely depend. A few days ago ex-Governor Lowden of Illinois, while condemning the policy of isolation, said that it would cost the United States 30 per cent of its wheat fields, 20 per cent of its cotton fields, and 50 per cent of its cotton fields, besides closing many of its mines and precipitating a complete industrial and economic revolution.

When Americans thoroughly understand that isolation means they will quickly sicken of it. The difficulty is they do not adequately understand, and those upon whom they rely for leadership either lack initiative and courage to carry on a campaign of education, or are themselves uninformed. The nation's greatest misfortune at this supreme moment is absence of sound leadership. What with a weak and vacillating Administration, what with a non-constructive Senate and what with an incompetent House, there has been no constructive leadership. We are simply drifting along like a modern passenger liner without engineer or pilot going somewhere, but where? Call after call comes across the sea. We listen in dumb amazement, but no help is forthcoming from Washington, which waits and waits to hear from "back home," Armenia and Turkey are the answer, and possibly the Ruhr. Meanwhile we expect our country to be able to handle the demand equal opportunities, we want to hear what is said and we would like to have a vote; but after asking for all possible advantages we deliberately refuse to accept any of the duties or responsibilities which go with them. Such an attitude as that now being maintained at Washington belies our war record and discredits us as a people in the eyes of the world.

Our paramount need is a constructive policy upon which to base some concert of action. The League of Nations is already established for the handling of these problems. In the absence of a better medium it is entitled to better consideration than it has ever received on this side of the Atlantic. It has accomplished more than generally known, although an infant of only three years' standing. The League established the permanent International Court at The Hague. It has done much toward the rehabilitation of Austria; it has already settled many international disputes and has other important problems under consideration. It has also averted minor wars, beside materially facilitating the making of treaties, of which three hundred and eleven have been registered under its auspices. To set such valuable machinery aside and to attempt the creation of new associations, with all delays and uncertainties, such efforts involve, seems to say the least, an unwise course. The vacant chair is still there awaiting our occupancy. Our occupation of that honorable position would impart new force, new hope and new life to the League and its members. True, there is no army behind the League, but it

should be realized that international public opinion through the drift of years above has gained enormously in power during the last few years. Backed by a League that included the United States, world public opinion could accomplish more in restoring peace, mind and justice than all the armies of Europe. From every point of the machine in its existence.

If we really desire to create a constructive policy, our first step would well be to secure full membership in the Reparations Commission. The next move should be to join the League of Nations. Then we might the more rapidly create that spirit of trust and good will which no nation can easily promote than ourselves. We may thus fittingly honor our country and restore our credit abroad; disarming enemies and lending a hand without delay in restoring a poverty stricken world. That way lies national honor and prosperity.

This country has passed through the great crisis; the first led by Washington, the second by Lansing, and the third, greatest of all, by Woodrow Wilson. How long is a sick world to appear in vain to Washington, D. C.—New York Journal of Commerce.

About Income Tax

Anomalous as it may seem, a person may be married and yet single for the purposes of the income-tax law. A taxpayer's status with regard to exemptions and credits is determined as of the last day of the taxable year (December 31, 1922, if the return is made on the calendar year basis, as most are. If on that day a man and his wife were living together they are entitled to an exemption of \$2,000, or \$2,500, according to the amount of their net income for 1922. If, however, they were separated by mutual consent or were divorced, each is allowed only the \$1,000 exemption granted a single person.

In the absence of continuous residence together, the question of whether man and wife are living together in the eyes of the income-tax law depends upon the character of the separation. If, occasionally the husband is absent on business, or if for any necessary reason a temporary separation exists, the full exemption is allowed. The presence of a wife at a sanitarium, or her unavoidable absence because of ill health does not change the marital status, and the husband is entitled to the full exemption. But when the husband habitually and continuously resides at another place and his wife at another, they are not living together for the purpose of the income-tax law.

The law works both ways. A man may wed on December 31, yet he is granted the exemption allowed a married person for the full year. The wife's income for 1922, however, must be considered with that of her husband in filing a return. A widower whose wife died before the end of the taxable year is classed as a single man and allowed only an exemption of \$1,000.

Similar conditions exist with respect to the head of a family. If during the year his support of relatives in his home ceased, he is entitled only to the \$1,000 exemption. A man who has a dependent child, not mentally or physically defective, that attains the age of 18 years just before the close of the taxable year can not claim the \$500 for a dependent. Likewise, if a dependent dies before the end of the taxpayer's taxable year, the \$500 credit is not allowable.

CLARK'S 20th CRUISE, June 27 TO THE MEDITERRANEAN
And Europe, by Specially Chartered White Star S.S. "BALTIC" 23,884 tons.
61 day cruise, \$500 upward, including Hotels, Drives, Feasts, etc. Perfectly accompanied and managed by F. C. Clark, Rome, Athens, Spain visits specially featured. 11 days, Paris and London. \$100. UNLIMITED EXTENSION and other good tours to Europe under escort; reasonable rates. Feb. 2, 1924 Mediterranean; "Baltic," 65 days cruise.

CALORIES
Emphasis used to be focused solely upon the caloric value of foods. Now, it is known that vitamin quality is equally essential to adequate nourishment.

Scott's Emulsion
has particular value as an energy-building food and tonic. It is also rich in vitamins, so important in building up the body and promoting healthful progress.

Free to Asthma and Hay Fever Sufferers
Free Trial of Method That Anyone Can Use Without Discomfort or Loss of Time.
We have a method for the control of Asthma, and we want you to try it at our expense. No matter whether your case is of long standing or recent development, whether it is purely Asthma or Hay Fever, or a combination of the two, we will send you a free trial of our method. No matter in what climate you live, no matter what your age or occupation, if you are troubled with Asthma or Hay Fever, our method should relieve you promptly.