

The Cherokee Scout
The Official Organ of Murphy and Cherokee County, North Carolina

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- SOME THINGS THE SCOUT WOULD LIKE TO SEE IN MURPHY AND CHEROKEE COUNTY
In Murphy
1. An active Board of Trade or Chamber of Commerce.
2. More Manufacturing Industries.
3. New Passenger Stations—A Union Station.
4. More Improved Streets.
5. Regular Library Hours.
6. A Reading Club.
In Cherokee County
1. A System of County Roads Supplementing the State Highways.
2. More and Better Cattle Raising and Dairying.
3. More Fruit Growing.
4. Scientific Poultry Raising.

The Single Taxers Doomed

THE single tax party has recently held a convention and nominated candidates for President and Vice-President and apparently will wage a nation-wide campaign to elect their nominees. What hope can be held out for the party in the future, remains to be seen. The Editor of The Pathfinder thinks the party doomed because it is founded upon a fallacy, namely, that land is the only source from which revenue for the maintenance of the government should be derived. On the face of it, this policy could not hope to appeal to a great many fair minded people, even though a large percentage of the population does not own land.

There is some plausibility for the contention of the single taxers, however, though they have gotten hold of a partial truth. It is their theory that by levying all the tax on land, it would force idle land into the most profitable use so it would produce as much revenue for society as possible. Undoubtedly it would do this, but it would also destroy the market value of land and take away the desire for ownership, that so strongly possesses the mind of man. It of times seems desirable that there should be some way to force land out of the hands of speculators so that it can be used; but the attendant evils of such a policy are so undesirable that it at once becomes untenable.

To tax land heavily and exempt all other forms of property and value from taxation would tend to drive capital away from real estate and into some other form of property. Land would become undesirable, and if pushed far enough, it would result in the surrender of the land to the government. There is a strong element of socialism in the whole scheme, but so long as the sense of ownership is strong in the human breast, there is not much possibility of such a policy prevailing. And, in fact, the suppression or the lessening of this instinct is very undesirable. To own anything gives one a sense of security. It makes one have a greater interest in his work, a greater pride in his community, and a deepening sense of moral obligation toward his fellow man.

There is an element of truth in the theory of the single taxers, but there is too much error for the theory to be widely accepted.

Building Shortage

THE BUILDING AGE, has recently compiled an elaborate report on the building shortage in the United States, based on statistics collected through a questionnaire to 1500 towns and cities in the United States. In this report it is shown that the shortage is equivalent to about five

and one-half billion dollars, the greater portion of which shortage is in the smaller towns and cities. This data covers only the requirements for residences, stores, hotels, hospitals, factories, schools, theatres, office buildings, and public buildings. Add to this the demand for churches, memorials, public works and utilities, the shortage is estimated at ten billion. The reason for the greatest shortage in the history of building, is ascribed to the almost total cessation of construction activity during the war. The report goes on to estimate that much of this shortage will be taken care of during the present year; that building activity will be from forty to fifty per cent above normal. This does not seem to be an exaggerated estimate for in every city and town construction work is going on at a more rapid rate, it seems, than at any time in the past.

This should mean that 1924 should be a prosperous year. It will create a market for building materials and everything that goes to make a home; it will stimulate the prices of lumber and lumber products, give employment to thousands, and rebound to the benefit of everybody in general.

Guard the National Forests

NATIONAL Forests in North Carolina now comprise an area of 400,000 acres which will be more than doubled in course of orderly development. What this means to navigable rivers, to water powers and stream flow is conceded theory. What the forests themselves mean in preservation of mountain beauty, in public satisfaction and enjoyment, and the utilization of lands that otherwise would be sacrificed to heedless exploitation is increasingly borne in on all having opportunity to observe the methods follows in their administration. It is in every way important to the State that this national enterprise in conservation be carried out, according to plan, as rapidly as necessary appropriations are justified.

In this connection it is just now important that there be recognized the distinction between the National Forest and the National Park, because of the movement to set apart as parks certain areas in the Southern Appalachian region. With such use of areas peculiarly adapted to park purposes there can be no logical quarrel, but the insidious danger is, that in order to gain a park we lose or embarrass the use of lands more properly included in the principle of the National Forest. Advocates of National Parks in the Southern Appalachians are in danger of being led by their enthusiasm for the preservation of unique phenomena or scenic effects to overlook the peril of the suggestion that there be appropriated to the National Park purposes areas already within or in the scope of logical development of the National Forests.

Once an area is set apart as a park, its commercial use and economic development come abruptly to an end. Its utilization except as a museum piece is sternly limited. It becomes a beautiful and inviolate curio.

By contrast, in the case of the National Forest the conservation is that of the saving to a use. The basis of its maintenance and protection is in the broadest sense economic. Subject to the definite purpose of protection of watersheds, the central idea is so far as possible to retain the land itself in the employments to which it is naturally suited. Its proper timbering provides raw products for industry. Its grasses furnish range for stock. Its woods and streams, subject to State laws, are available for sport and recreation. In addition, although Federal property, its revenues are applied not only to the cost and maintenance, but to compensating counties for loss of taxes.

There are in the Southern Appalachians several opportunities for National Parks within the exceptions of which the Yellowstone is the great example. The Mammoth Cave is one. The wonderful Linville Gorge might be considered another. But National Forest is a concern from which it is important there be no distraction. The public and the representatives of the South in Congress would do well to adopt as a policy the resolution of the North Carolina Forestry Association, that it is to their best interest "to emphasize the purchase program for National Forests rather than to set aside areas for parks, and that there is no excuse for converting National Forests in the Southern Appalachians, or any part thereof, into National Parks."—Natural Resources.

The chicken harvest will largely be determined by the kind of stock from which eggs are secured for hatching purposes, say poultry specialists of the State College.

TARHEEL TATTLE

By Carl William Bailey

The Hasty One.
Say there, Mister Bluebird,
A-buiddin' of your nest?
Better be a-huntin'
Of a warm place to rest!

Saw you in the apple tree,
A-prancin' mighty hol',
Disturbin' Mister Peckerwood
To rob him of his hole.

Don't be quite so hasty,
An' just abide yer time;
To dump him in this snow
Would cert'nly be a crime!

It's just a bit too early
For to build yer bungalow;
March is only foolin',
An' always likes to blow.

But Running Some!
The Paragrapher of the Greensboro News looks out of the window at the sleet and snow and heaves this sigh: "Cheer up! The ground hog cuss on this weather, if any, has but about ten days more to run."

The Answer.
Snowmaker heard our song,
Hurried right along,
Shoveled up his snow and piled it down upon us;
He come an' snowed the lan'
So we could make a man,
An' roll a man-sized snowball to utilize the bonus.

Mince Pie!
The Asheville Times' Paragrapher says: "'Apples' was the code name for Fall. From the standpoint of the Republican party he could have been more appropriately referred to as Lemon."

A Blowin' Fellow.
Blow or, Mister March Wind,
An' put the clouds to rout;
A sweetheart like Miss Springtime
Is enough to blow about.

Blow on with your blizzard,
An' bring the snow today—
But you've a sweetheart smilin'
An' she's a-comin' of your way.

Blow on like a hurricane—
But when she looks at you,
You'll calm your blowin' self
Like other good fellows do.

Wayside Pebbles.
Trouble's mighty bad company, but he's never bothered about bein' lonesome.
A dentist is about the only person livin' that really gets pay for "lookin' down in the mouth."
People who grumble 'bout the weather bein' too cold, never stop to think how hot it'll be hereafter.

The Obscurity of Goodness

THE Oil interests made a stab at Senator Walsh and got turned down cold. The Montana Senator evidently saw through the scheme of those who have gotten so many other public men in a discreted light and he would have none of it.

However, it would be superficial to congratulate ourselves that we have at least one honest man in Washington, one incorruptible member of Congress.

The truth is, of course, that the vast majority of them would have done just as Senator Walsh did.

Those who violate the common codes of ethical are the exception and not the rule. The men who have bowed the knee to Baal in Washington are the few among the many. Senator Walsh has a great galaxy of other honest men surrounding him, to be sure.

The trouble is that goodness never has a press-agent. It is always the evil-door and wrong and error and dishonesty and corruption and villainess and crime that get on the front pages, because that is news.

There is no news in a man being found honest and law-abiding and irreproachable. Society recognizes that as normal and the other as the abnormal.—Charlotte News.

One farmer of Union County wanted to sell 20 bushels of good lespedza seed; another farmer wanted to buy just this amount they both took their cause to County Agent T. J. W. Broom and in five minutes a check for \$100 was given for the seed.



MISS HELEN SCHULTZ, operator of the Red Ball Transportation Company, which runs buses in Iowa, is endeavoring to prove to the satisfaction of the State board that her service is a "public convenience," within the meaning of the Iowa motor-carrier law. This is denied by opposing railroads, the Chicago Great Western; Chicago Rock Island & Pacific; Chicago North Western; Minneapolis & St. Louis; Fort Dodge, Des Moines & Southern; and the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Roads. These roads are supported in their contentions by the county supervisors of Worth, Cayo Gordo, Hardin, and Franklin Counties, who also declare the heavy buses damage the highways excessively.

Friends of the highway bus idea contend that the remedy for any damage done roads by bus operation lies either in higher taxation of such buses or the construction of roads able to bear the traffic of heavy buses. They say that the bus is a convenience, as much a necessity to towns served as are trolley cars, and point to the fact that in the beginning the railroads were against the establishment of interurban trolley service, but that in later years the railroads found them of such value in relieving them of unprofitable short haul that many railroads have built trolley lines themselves.

Restriction of a public utility to serve private interests has been so often tried in this country and so often decisively denied that the eventual outcome of this case should not be hard to predict.

An Income Tax Return

TO THE person who pays a federal income tax, the annual return which he has just been making out may be just a bothersome schedule of figures and items, often prepared with tearing of hair and explosion of profanity. Some taxpayers feel that it assesses well to do people to heavily, and is an oppressive use of the power of the government.

From another point of view, however, an income tax return is a kind of moral showdown, a test put up to people's civic spirit. If they want to avoid some share of their obligation to the government they can perhaps do so without taking great risk of detection.

If a man joins a club for social purposes and all chip in to pay the costs, he is anxious to pay his fair share of the expenses. He would be ashamed to take less than his share, even if the fact were not generally known. He wants to feel that he is doing his part toward the benefits the organization provides.

He should have the same feeling as an American citizen. He has joined the world's greatest democratic organization, the United States of America. He derives innumerable blessings therefrom. His home and life and property are protected, his children educated, he is given great business opportunities and the advantages of modern culture. If he will think it over, he will see that he wants to do his full share toward the costs of this beneficent association.

When he figures out his income tax return, therefore, there will be no feeling of regret if the assessment is a considerable amount. He will thank his ancestors and the makers of America that they gave him his blessings, and he will want to pay every cent that is his share. Instead of trying to make the figures of his return as low as possible, he will be more anxious for fear he is understating them. And when he hands over his check, he will say it is a cheap price for the benefits that his glorious country has brought to him.

The Ideal Farm

IN THE final analysis the ideal farm—the truly successful farm—is the one which yields to the farmer and his family a living—full, adequate, complete—liberal in material rewards, but not lacking in the social, aesthetic, and ethical values which make for character, contentment, and genuine happiness. The soil has the capacity to produce these returns if the hand which turns it but knows how to sow the seed. The key which will unlock the wealth of the fields and bring forth the treasures material and spiritual is the intelligence of the farmer.—New Jersey College of Agriculture.

HIGH CIVIC STANDARDS

A WOMAN whose house needed painting badly at one time, excited considerable criticism among her neighbors. She began to get discreet hints, suggesting that painting makes a building last longer and increases its sale value.

She was somewhat impressed by these hints, yet she delayed and postponed. She told a neighbor finally that she knew her house needed painting, but she was so fearful that the neighbors would criticize her color that she would put on, that she hesitated to do anything, about it. Finally those particular neighbors were too much inclined to pick flaws. Yet in the main the idea was right, that people ought to consider the effect that the condition of the homes has upon the neighborhood where they are located.

There are many towns and localities where anything seems to go. A man puts up an ugly building or allow his property to become decadent, but no one seems to care or find any fault. There is an going feeling that it is a kind of go as please place, where anything is accepted tolerantly, and where people can do just they like without regard to its effect on community.

Such a state of things may seem pleasant to indolent and careless people, but checks progress.

If it is proposed in a town to put up an ugly building, public sentiment should demand something more appropriate. People who allow their places to run down should realize that they injure others as well as themselves by such neglect.

It would be a fine thing if every rate payer in Murphy could look over property critically and see what repairs were needed this spring. He should not merely be satisfied with what will pay, but should ask if conditions conform to his ideal of what he wants his home to be.

FAT MAN'S CORNER

Wife—"I believe I will bob my hair."
Husband (smiling blandly)—"You have been wanting to grow a beard long time anyway." She didn't bob her hair.

"But?"
"No."
"Just?"
"No."
"One?"
"No."
"Please?"
"No."

"Oh, Jack, why didn't you share?"

Correct this sentence: "It was not that needed tightening," said the mechanic, "and a quarter will be enough."

First Flapper: "That conductor at me as if I hadn't paid my fare."
Second Flapper: "What did you say?"
First Flapper: "I glared back at him though I had."

Ann—"The man I marry mustn't put the world at my feet."
Dan—"Well, I have \$25 in cash. You be satisfied with Russia and for a starter?"

"I do hope you keep your cows in pasture," said Miss Fisher as she milked the man at the Girl's Dormitory one day.

"Yes'm" replied the milkman. "I am so glad," went on Miss Fisher, "I have been told that pastured cows are the best."

- A dark Roadside.
A lone Coupe.
A snoring Cop.
Eight dollars To pay.

There are three things that those who know how to use a hammer value more than those who view a hammer merely as a tool and those who regard it as an attraction for noise and lots of dust.