

ANSWERS QUESTIONS

(Continued from Page One)

cooperate on any program that will give promise to relieving the present situation, which, I believe, if not soon relieved, will bring bankruptcy to agriculture in North Carolina.

Your second question, "Forestry," is not so clear to me. I believe forestry in a general way needs attention, but when you realize that timber at stumpage today is selling for very little more than it did in 1900 with the cost of finished timber three to six times as high, I see little in this effort except to help big interests pile up huge profits. Again it is a means of allowing big land holdings to escape taxes by not developing their lands. There are many cases where a small land holder on one side of a road is burdened with high tax values while big holdings on the other side of the same road has exceedingly small values because in the first instance the party is progressive and improves his property, while in the latter the holders allow their property to "go hang." The principle is wrong. It produces a penalty on progress and a prize for shiftlessness.

Your third question "Farmer Representation" hits my idea exactly if given a little more liberal meaning. I think we are getting a little too highly centralized and specialized. For instance, the legislative halls are used too often by young lawyers as stepping stones to higher positions rather than immediate benefits to the public, which idea seems to be working out too much in practice. Also, farmers are being told too much by experts, who rely on theory, how to carry on, not only in planting, but executive and living conditions. There seems to be a serious "shortage" of coordination of the several departments. There are entirely too many requirements of certain standards for certain positions. A college education does not supply ability. It may help develop it when the foundation is there, but to say one who is qualified from the standpoint of experience and ability cannot hold a position just because he does not hold certain college degrees or certain technical training is foolish and entirely unAmerican and unfair and I am opposed to it. Let's have farmer and labor representation, not as organized membership, but as citizens with the interest of the State at heart. This specialized college training is denying opportunity to the eighty per cent or more who are not in position to get the higher training.

Now as to your fourth question, "Reduce Tax Rate on Owner Occupied Farms and Homes." I am very much in favor of a system that will take the premium or penalty off progress and a system that will bring about fairness to individuals. A law that only allows an exemption on the values of homes or farms occupied by the owners, I do not think will do this. In fact I know it will mean higher taxes for all property. The exemption in most cases will not be sufficient to relieve the increased rate and later increased values, placed to offset the loss occasioned by the exemption.

I am with you for permanent results. In my honest opinion there is at least 75 per cent of the property in North Carolina off the tax lists, which places the burden of government on the 25 per cent or less that is available. Whenever North Carolina repeals the exemptions on religious, educational and fraternal properties, save for that actually used as the institution in question, and not held as property for other purposes or excuses, and doing away with tax exempt stocks, bonds, notes, public and other property off the tax lists, then and then only will a fair tax be imposed on all citizens and holders of property. If the system is to be changed other than above it should provide an arbitrary tax value for all homes of a certain size, not value, that cannot be changed, and allow any or all improvements desired, pertaining to the home, without the possibility of its being taxed away from the owner, as at present.

Now in keeping with your third and fourth questions I think a big adjustment should be made in the educational funds of the State in that the money should be more equally divided. There is

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hardly 20 per cent of the children of the State that ever get opportunity to attend schools of higher education and at least 60 per cent of these are able to pay their own way. To my way of thinking a larger percentage of the educational funds should go to the public schools thereby providing a better educational opportunity for the 80 per cent who cannot attend the Colleges and Universities. The State a few years ago adopted the free text books responsibility, but today the rentals and fees for supplemental requirements amounts to a large per cent of the original school book costs, which has served to break the confidence of the public in the sincerity of the administrations to relieve it of the costs of these books.

The public looks at the State School Commission and the State Purchase and Contract Commission as two dead-weights on the State's expense fund. In the first place it doesn't seem necessary to have the State Department of Education and the School Commission both—one or the other should be done away with and save the expense. In the case of the latter it may appear that it is saving the State half a million or more dollars a year, but in reality it is losing to the individual units, and subdivisions, five or six times this much by taking the business from them that would otherwise build up their tax paying ability. On this same basis I doubt if the State actually saves anything on its venture.

Hoping these answers are satisfactory and with kindest regards, I am

Yours truly,
A. F. JOHNSON.

RESOLUTION IN RESPECT

To The Memory of Mr. R. H. Davis, Late Senior Warden of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Louisburg, N. C.

WHEREAS, Mr. R. H. Davis, late of Louisburg, Franklin County, North Carolina; died on the 12th day of April, 1940, at the age of eighty-three (83) years;

AND WHEREAS, at the time of his death the said Mr. R. H. Davis was and had been since early youth a member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Louisburg, N. C., and was for a long number of years Senior Warden of said Church, and was the last of an old and distinguished Franklin County family, wearing well the mantle which descended to him as the eldest son of "Honest Joe" Davis of the North Carolina Supreme Court;

AND WHEREAS, the said Mr. R. H. Davis was at the time of his death the oldest living communicant of St. Paul's Parish and had been a faithful, regular and conscientious participant for more than fifty years in the affairs of the Church, and by his exemplary conduct, his personal integrity, his deep religious conviction and by his faithfulness in carrying out the precepts and tenets of the Christian way of life, he was honored and revered by all who came in contact with him;

AND WHEREAS, it is the desire and wish of the Parish and of the Vestry of St. Paul's Episcopal Church that the memory of Mr. R. H. Davis be honored and respected, and that his devotion to his Church and to the best interest of his community be made known to the public, and that the esteem and affection in which he was held by all who knew him be made known to his friends and relatives;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Vestry of St. Paul's Episcopal Church:

FIRST: That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to the official publication of the Diocese of North Carolina, to-wit, The Carolina Churchman, with the request and to the end that it may be printed in the next published issue thereof.

SECOND: That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to THE FRANKLIN TIMES, the newspaper published in Louisburg, where the said Mr. R. H. Davis resided for the greater part of his long life with the request and to the end that it may be published therein.

per published in Louisburg, where the said Mr. R. H. Davis resided for the greater part of his long life with the request and to the end that it may be published therein.

THIRD: That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Mrs. R. L. Bernhardt, of Salisbury, N. C., who is a niece of Mr. R. H. Davis and his nearest relative.

FOURTH: That a copy of this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the Vestry of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. This the 21st day of April 1940. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Louisburg, N. C. By W. J. Shearin, Secretary to the Vestry.

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