

**THE CAROLINA WATCHMAN**

WM. H. STEWART, Ed. and Prop.

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SALISBURY, N. C., SEPT. 14TH, 1909

It is related that an inspector at the New York custom house found a dollar bill in his pocket for which he could not account. Expressing the belief that some passenger whose baggage he had examined had thought to bribe him by slipping the bill in his pocket "unbeknownst" to him, the inspector forwarded the bill to the Treasury Department with the explanation, and the money was credited to the conscience fund. It might be well to keep an eye on that inspector. Sometimes the honesty game is played up to divert attention so that some business may be done. — Statesville Landmark.

Of course, we don't know what this inspector's motives were, but we suspect he knew. For instance a few weeks ago J. H. Corriher, one of Salisbury's mail carriers discovered some small change in a letter box, about 36 cents. All letters and packages in the box were fully paid with stamps affixed. He took the money, wrote out a report of it and turned it over to Postmaster Ramsay. This was the proper thing to do. Very likely that money was put in that box to test the honesty of that particularly carrier. It was known who would take up the mail and when. If no report had been made Mr. Corriher would henceforth be slated for an ex-carrier. He was tried in the balances and was found to be full weight and more. So why not with the New York inspector? It may have been just as well to have reported the find, stated his willingness to turn the money over to its owner, and held it. It was as much his as it was the government's, but the amounts in either case were too little for this.

Two citizens were discussing the proposed township bond issue for good roads. One of them, a man who is not seized of over much of this world's plunder and whose tax is small, declared against the measure. It happens that he leans toward socialism and ever and anon swats the rich, the trusts, the multimillionaires, the privileged classes, and so forth. The other man knew this and lifted up his voice, which was slightly tinged with sarcastic profanity, and said: "You are all the time railing out against the wealthy classes. I have heard you say what you would do to 'em if you had power. Here is a chance to swat them good and hard. Their property will bear the heaviest part of this tax. You will pay but little. The average man will pay but little. The rich will pay most. Vote the bonds and hit 'em hard!" The amusing part of the situation is that practically every man in Lexington township who owns considerable property is enthusiastically in favor of better roads. It is one of the strangest things in the world that men who get the most benefit from an improvement and who have to pay the least for it, are the men who fight the improvement to the last ditch—and then some.—Lexington Dispatch.

Of course it is none of our business as to this or any other bond issue Lexington or Davidson county may vote on, and, it is not our intention to butt into our neighbors affairs; but as the statement above is the favorite stock argument of bond advocates in general and is so outrageously false, that we are willing to use a little space in showing up its absurdity and telling why the poor man should never fail to hit bond issues and all schemes to increase the tax rate the heaviest blows he is capable of.

"The rich will pay most." Let's see. How does he pay

it? Well, this if the way he does it. This is the way he has always done it. He owns two stores and three dwellings. The increase in the tax rate, on account of the bond issue, may amount to \$1.25 on his stores and 75 cents on his dwellings. Now watch him shoulder this extra tax and be glad. Yes, he will just simply go to his renters and inform them, that, owing to the increase of taxes occasioned by the recent bond issue, he finds it necessary to increase the rent on his buildings. Yes, good man, who bears his country's burdens, he adds about \$5.00 per month to the rent of his stores and \$3.00 on the dwellings, about four times the tax. Yes, he pays the tax, after taking advantage of the poor renter, the merchant and his customers, among whom is that poor man paying some more of that same tax. In short a bond issue gives the rich a chance, not only to gouge the poor, but to escape, indirectly, the payment of any tax, and he has never yet failed to take advantage of such an opportunity. We believe the consumer, the renter and producer pays 75 to 90 per cent. of all taxes, if not more. He always pays more than his part. He is the under-dog in the fight and he is too often willingly so. Such argument as the above is rotten tomy rot that has decayed, if not worse. It is a little meaner and more assured than the oft repeated buncombe about enhancing the value of a farm to have good roads, which is always coupled with the statement that a man can get more for his farm, just as if there was going to be a wholesale breaking up of homes and auctioning of farms along the new road. If a man stays on the farm and it increases in value, because of the road, it may mean the loss of his home. It will not produce an extra bushel of wheat and yet his taxes will be higher. Yes, poor man, hit the bonds hard whenever there be an opportunity.

It is just as well for us to learn now how to build roads and other things, and pay for them as we go, as at some future time. This will have to be learned as there is certainly a limit to bond issues. We cannot go on issuing indefinitely nor do roads last indefinitely. The best roads built today will not last over ten years, and with bond issues running 30, 40 and 50 years, it does not take a very colossal brain to see the foolishness of issuing bonds for such a purpose. This is no argument, however, against good roads. We should have them, but let's pay for them as we go.

We not not want to array class against class, nor is it our desire to be a calamity howler, but the shortsightedness and injustice that exists all over our land toward the poor, as evidenced by such out-croppings as above cited, if not discontinued or materially modified, will, sooner or later, plunge this country into a revolution, bloodier, more cruel and more sweeping than any the world has ever yet known. Talk about the poor not paying taxes, why he does little else. Being the last factor in our system of economiss every mouthful of bread, every bite of meat, every dollar of rent, every basket of coal, every tool, every piece of wearing apparel, in short everything that he gets, and having nothing he must buy all, and it must be paid for with the taxes and profits always added. And more, he pays for it by the sweat of his brow, by days, nights and years of manual labor that means much, very much, when compared with the easy methods of making a living in vogue among the rich.

This old world is chocked full of injustice and unequal chances, and, while we have no more hope of socialism freeing us of these things that Republicanism, or Democracy, all these isms being the mere connivings of sinful man, it does seem that enlightened beings could improve conditions if only they would.

John Wright, son of Geo. W. Wright, was painfully wounded in the right hand Friday afternoon by a bullet from a Flobert rifle which he was handling.

**The Odd Fellows at Granite Quarry.**

The thirteenth district convention of the I. O. O. F., convened in the hall of Stone Lodge, at Granite Quarry, Wednesday, and a very interesting and instructive address was delivered by Mr. Barrette, of Charlotte, a member of the twelfth district and was listened to with attention by the large audience present. The session was called to order at 4 o'clock by the president W. M. Ruth.

The night session was called to order at 7:30 and the initiatory degree conferred by Cordon Lodge, of Salisbury. Short but interesting talks were made by supervisor R. M. Leonard, Sheriff Jas. H. McKenzie, W. A. Fogleman, A. B. Saleeby and others. All were entertaining and instructive. A vote of thanks was extended to the citizens of Granite Quarry for their cordial reception and entertainment, and also to Mr. Barnett.

The officers for the coming year are: President, Dr. L. S. Fox, of Salisbury; vice-president, D. E. Duncan, of Granite Quarry; secretary, A. J. Broad, of Spencer; marshal, C. B. Peebles, of Advance; inside sentinel, J. C. Hodges, of Lexington; outside sentinel, W. G. Kirk, of Thomasville. At 11 o'clock the convention closed to meet on March 10th, 1910, with Advance Lodge, No. 841, at Advance, Davis county.

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If you would like special advice about your case write a confidential letter to Mrs. Pinkham, at Lynn, Mass. Her advice is free, and always helpful.

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now ready, gives the fullest information about all Seeds for the Farm and Garden, Grasses and Clovers, Vetches, Alfalfa, Seed Wheat, Oats, Rye, Barley, etc.

Also tells all about Vegetable & Flower Seeds that can be planted in the fall to advantage and profit, and about Hyacinths, Tulips and other Flowering Bulbs, Vegetable and Strawberry Plants, Poultry Supplies and Fertilizers.

Every Farmer and Gardener should have this catalog. It is invaluable in its helpfulness and suggestive ideas for a profitable and satisfactory farm or garden. Catalogue mailed free on request. Write for it.

**T. W. WOOD & SONS,** Seedsmen, - Richmond, Va.

Rev. Hughes, archdeacon of the Raleigh Convocation, conducted services at St. Luke's Episcopal church Sunday morning and night. Rev. Cheatham will be here to conduct service on October 1st.

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**Furniture** A line as good as the best carried anywhere with prices cheaper than the cheapest.

**Burt's Shoe Stock** Here's where we are Stronger and Cheaper than anybody—quality for quality—style for style and price for price. Anything your want for dress, School or Work Shoes at a closer margin of profit than good Shoes have ever been sold in this town

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