

# The Carolina Watchman

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"If the choice were left to me whether to have a free press or a free government, I would choose a free press."—Thomas Jefferson.

FRIDAY MORNING, MAY 6, 1932

## POPULATION DATA

### CITIES AND TOWNS

Salisbury	16,951	Gold Hill	156
Spencer	3,129	Granite Quarry	507
E. Spencer	2,098	Rockwell	696
China Grove	1,258	Faith	431
Landis	1,388	Kannapolis	13,912

### TOWNSHIPS

Atwell	2,619	Morgan	1,327
China Grove	8,990	Mt. Ulla	1,389
Cleveland	1,445	Providence	2,589
Franklin	2,246	Salisbury	27,153
Gold Hill	2,642	S. Irish	1,251
Litaker	2,562	Steele	1,142
Locke	1,904	Unity	1,406

ROWAN COUNTY 56,665

## CHILD LABOR DECREASES IN STATE

The number of children employed in industry in North Carolina has decreased 70 per cent. in the last ten years, so that the problem of child labor is becoming less of a problem every year, according to E. F. Carter, head of the Division of Standards and Inspection in the Department of Labor, which has charge of the enforcement of the State's child labor laws, replacing the former Child Welfare Commission, of which Mr. Carter was executive secretary.

The largest number of children certified by the State as eligible for employment in industry, and under 16 years of age, was in 1922-23, when 10,425 children were certified, Carter said. Since that time the number has decreased 70 per cent., so that at the present time only 3,096 children under 16 years of age are certified for employment in industry in North Carolina. At the present time, the majority of the 3,096 children certified are between 14 and 16 years old, while in 1922-23 most of the 10,425 children certified then were between 12 and 14 years old.

During the peak years of 1922-23 a child could be found employed on an average of every six miles travelled by one of the inspectors, but today, or for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1931, only one child could be found employed every 43 miles travelled by the inspectors.

The decrease in the numbers of children employed in industry is attributed by Mr. Carter to the increasingly better legislation that has been enacted by successive legislatures, to the better schools and the realization of parents that it is better to keep their children in school than to put them to work, and to the realization on the part of employers that adult workers are more efficient and economic, even if it is necessary to pay them more than child workers.

## SHORT SELLING

There are some people who think it is a terrible thing to sell something you haven't got in the hope or expectation that before you have to deliver it you can buy it at a price lower than you have agreed to sell it for. That is what so-called "short selling" on the stock market means. Nobody quarrels with the man who contracts to deliver a hundred head of cattle, for example, at the present market price, because he believes that the price is going down and that he will be able to buy them for less and make a profit.

Congress has been investigating short selling on the Stock Exchange. It has not found any evidence that anybody engaged in short selling operations was doing anything more serious than betting that the prices of stocks would go down still farther. Sometimes they did and sometimes they didn't. Several million people lost a lot of money in 1929 by betting that stocks would go higher. That is all that most of the transactions on the Stock Exchange mean—betting that the market will go higher or lower. Pery A. Rockefeller told the investigators that he had lost "many, many millions" betting that the market would rise and had succeeded in winning only \$550,000 of it back by betting that the market

would go down. Mr. C. Brush, probably the biggest of all the stock market operators, frankly admitted that the business of Wall Street is "a racket like Al Capone's," and he confirmed what we have long suspected, that people who are not professional traders in securities are simply suckers when they dabble in stocks and are sure to lose in the long run, no matter which way the market goes.

We think one of the principal troubles of the United States these days arises from the extension to every corner of the country of facilities for gambling on the stock market. Of course, there must be an open market for the purchase and sale of stocks and bonds, and we don't know any way to stop human beings from gambling, in one form or another. But we do think that it is just as reprehensible to tempt the unwary into speculating on the stock market, as it is to try to take their money away from them by selling them lottery tickets.

## WE'LL SOON KNOW THE WORST

We are cheered by the news from Washington that Congress expects to finish its work by the early part of June and shut down shop until next December. We have no inside information as to what the ultimate tax program will be, or how the proposed reductions in government expenditures will finally come out. But we have lived in this world long enough to know that any certainty, even the worst, is better than an uncertainty. We know and hear of many businesses and industries which are marking time, waiting to find out for sure what Congress is going to do about taxes, before they can make their plans intelligently for going ahead. It may make all the difference in the world whether one kind of a tax or another kind is finally decided upon. But American business men and manufacturers have always had a happy faculty of adjusting themselves to conditions as they are, and when they know exactly what the conditions are we believe that there will be a rapid and general revival in manufacturing and trade.

Before the end of June the Presidential conventions will have been held and we will know exactly what each party promises in its platform, and who it offers as its candidate for the Presidency. That will remove another uncertainty. And we can then enjoy a pleasant summer, hoeing corn and fishing and talking politics, with the satisfying knowledge that there isn't any more that we, as individuals, can do about the situation until election day. So we might as well tend strictly to our own business from the fourth of July to the eighth of November.

## THE FRIENDS OF DEPRESSION

Idle dollars are the best friends of depression.

They do no one good. Stuck away in strong boxes—or socks!—they are entirely worthless. They are unable to do their bit in carrying on the financial work of the world. They are a sign of fear, of a hysterical kind of conservatism that mistakes hoarding for thrift.

True thrift is a fine thing. It is the source of the money that builds plants, buys and operates machinery, employs men, keeps the wheels of industry going.

As an advertisement of the Northern States Power Company recently said: "The opportunity to earn a return on investment is better today than for years. Banks pay interest on deposits regularly. Sound securities earn, and pay, a regular, safe income."

The hoarder is cheating himself—of greater importance, he is cheating us all. He is prolonging unemployment, profitless prices, the accumulation of goods for which there is no market because people have no money to buy. He is, in the full sense of the word, anti-social.

This is worth remembering: *Idle dollars are the best friends of depression.*

## SAUCE FOR THE GOOSE

One extremely important phase of the railroad problem—that of competition arising from new carriers which have been mainly developed since the war—is fundamentally as simple as the alphabet.

The problem is this: If one common carrier is regulated by the Federal Government, through the Interstate Commerce Commission, why shouldn't the others be? If one form of transportation is taxed heavily by all forms of government, why shouldn't the others be taxed on the same basis?

Simple justice dictates that all important forms of transport, railroads, buses, trucks and waterways, be placed under an identical type of regulation. This would make for fair competition and the effects of that would be felt, beneficially, throughout the nation. Unfair competition has brought the railroads to the verge of ruin.

What is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander. And what is considered good for the railroads, should likewise be good for their competitors.

## Mother's Day

By Albert T. Reid



## THE WATCHMAN TOWER

To the Parents of Young Children in Salisbury:

Now that spring time is here with its invitation to the children to play out of doors, motorists, traffic officials and parents again face the perplexing problem of children playing in the streets, frequently in crowds, endangering their lives. I doubt not that during the recent fine, warm afternoons groups of children could have been found playing on other streets than on the one which I saw them.

In the meantime, parents are warned that if their little ones are permitted to congregate in the streets to play without official regulation or adult supervision, they may expect some fatal or otherwise serious accidents before the practice continues long.

GOVERNOR MATTHEW ROWAN.

To the Householders of Salisbury and Rowan County:

At this time of year many of you doubtless are finding upon examination that you have old clothing, hats, shoes, dresses and other garments on hand that you will not use this spring and summer, even though you have kept them over from last year. You will be rendering a real service to those in need if you will get together all wearing apparel that you no longer will use and telephone the Salvation Army or the County Welfare office, so that it may be distributed by the agency among those who need it worst.

None of the relief agencies have funds with which to buy clothing, and many women, children and men being aided by these agencies are in need of all sorts of garments, hats and shoes.

GOVERNOR MATTHEW ROWAN.

Mr. E. B. Jeffress, Chairman, State Highway Commission; Capt. Chas. D. Farmer, Chief, State Highway Patrol.

Gentlemen:

The report of the patrol for the month of March, showing almost \$40,000 in money collected as a mere incident of the activities of the force, indicates that the organization is not nearly so expensive as those opposing the maintenance of a highway patrol would have the public believe. More important, however, is the record showing 972 arrests and 843 court convictions for violations of the traffic laws, including many for driving while drunk, reckless driving, speeding and other practices highly dangerous to thousands of other motorists. No one can ever know how many lives were saved by the arrests of the 390 drivers charged with the three offenses just mentioned.

The fact that more than 15,000 drivers were stopped and warned of

violations of the law during the month indicates that the patrolmen are not idle.

GOVERNOR MATTHEW ROWAN.

Mr. R. K. Johnson, Salisbury, N. C.

My dear Mr. Johnson:

The recent honor conferred on you by the Royal Arcanum in re-electing you to the post of Grand Regent is evidence of the esteem in which you are held.

I understand you are a member of long standing, and that your time and efforts have been freely given for the betterment of your organization.

Allow me to congratulate you and extend my heartiest wishes for a successful term of office.

GOVERNOR MATTHEW ROWAN.

## COMMENTS

Her Panacea Is To Scrap The Labor-Saving Machines.

To the Editor: Five years ago every man and woman who wanted to work had a job, with a fair salary. Where are the jobs today?

I have read that overproduction was the cause of this horrible depression. But what is the cause of overproduction?

First, one man invents a device taking fewer men to operate and producing more in shorter time. The large manufacturer thereby makes more money. The manufacturer that is so small financially that it cannot be equipped finally closes its doors—out of business!

We must go back a few years to the good old days when work did exist. If everything that is made and waiting to be sold were destroyed to rid some people of the overproduction idea, it would be of no avail, for the factories as they are equipped today could replace everything within a short time and business would again be dead.

Every country should improve its ideas until there is work for every working man, but when they get so smart that they can put nearly everyone out of employment and produce just the same, it's time to stop and think. No matter how cheap articles are offered, they simply cannot be bought without a wage earner in the home, and soon there is no home—nothing but disappointment and sor-



MAY

By Henry Sylvester Cornwell

Come walk with me along this willowed lane,

Where, like lost coinage from some miser's store,

The golden dandelions more and more

Glow, as the warm sun kisses them again!

For this is May! who with a daisy chain

Leads on the laughing Hours; for now is o'er

Long winter's trance. No longer rise and roar

His forest-wrenching blasts. The hopeful swain,

Along the furrow, sings behind his team;

Loud pipes the red breast—troubadour of spring,

And vocal all the morning cosses ring;

More blue the skies in lucent lakelets ring;

And the glad earth, caressed by murmuring showers,

Wakes like a bride, to deck Herself with flowers!

row to rack the minds and bodies of thousands who are not to blame. This world of so-called industry must slow up, go back and pick up where they were when everyone was happy and hold to it to save all of us, rich and poor alike. With everything mechanical, where can a mere man hope to find a job?

Depression can be lifted for all time if the Government would allow no more inventors to put their ideas on the market, and put such a heavy tax on every manufacturer that used these labor and time saving machines that it would justify them to install the older machinery, hire the dependable human force instead of mechanical force, which has already brought thousands to destruction, and forced them to stop buying. Then in return these firms will be able to sell their products promptly.

Of course, our Government lawmakers in Washington could coincide and have everyone back to work in a short time.

A HOUSEWIFE WITH HER OWN IDEAS.

Birth Control Might Help.

To the Editor:

The world, as well as the United States, is becoming overpopulated. Owing to modern discoveries in baffling disease people live longer. Between inventions and this overpopulation there will not be enough gainful occupations to go around.

Just how to remedy conditions at present I do not know, but we can help the future by spreading the knowledge of birth control.

Any law opposing this measure will be responsible for the sufferings of future generations.

M. R.



WITH SO MANY FOLKS OUT O' WORK, NOBODY CARES WHETHER THE ALARM CLOCK'S BROKE OR NOT.