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Construction Or Destruction?

Hear Dr. Arthur H. Compton, world famous scientist, as he describes the contradiction in which the world has caught itself today!

"A few months ago I had the privilege of sharing in the dedication of a great new telescope. Here was an instrument ingeniously devised to enlarge human vision. Those who had built the great observatory were seeking to satisfy the human hunger for a better understanding of man's place in his world. Yet the techniques developed for building such great telescopes have likewise been applied to constructing more accurate range finders to control with deadly precision the fire of great guns."

Dr. Compton points out an essential choice that has always confronted man—the choice between using his mind to find ways to destroy other men and their work, and using that same mind to build a better world.

Here in America we have followed the latter course. We have chosen to depend upon our industries for products of peacetime use, and we have directed our industrial research men to find us ways for better living.

We have led the rest of the world in raising the standard of living of the average family, and we have done it by remaining at peace while other nations went to the wars and turned all their enterprise to destructive ends.

It is a lesson to be remembered at the present time.

Checks And Balances

American history has proven that the practical application of our traditional system of "checks and balances" is the surest protection against oppression.

Basic industry in this country has its foundation in the checks and balances system. Banking is an excellent example. We have state banks and national banks. The privately owned state banks serve in a large measure to insure against gradual absorption of private credit by government bureaus and agencies. On the other hand, the national banks, members of what is known as the Federal Reserve System, tend to unify and coordinate banking policies and operation throughout the country. The influence of the former deeply roots banking to local soil, while the latter are essential to a sound, integrated banking system. Each is a check against the other.

Robert M. Hanes, President of the American Bankers Association, recently asserted that independent banking or credit would not long survive the extermination of this dual system. He further pointed out that "the banking system lies at the heart of the question of free enterprise vs. planned economy, local rights vs. centralized control. Without free enterprise there are no local rights. And you can't have free enterprise without an independent credit (banking) system. If business men or home owners ever have to go, hat in hand, to the agents of the political power in control for credit, they will have surrendered two vital elements in American freedom, freedom of speech and freedom of the ballot."

Find The Tax-Free Man!

"A nation-wide poll indicates that 25 per cent of the people believe they do not pay taxes," says the Kansas City Times. Presumably these are people who never ride in motorcars, who do not live in houses or apartments, who do not buy food or do any of the other things that go to make up present-day living.

"That 25 per cent is pretty mythical. It's the supreme example of self-delusion. It sees no tax bills and so concludes it does not pay. It's pretty much like saying that because you don't see the heat or the cold neither can exist."

What this all adds up to is simply that the great bulk of taxes collected in this country are hidden taxes. Nobody sends you a quarterly or an annual statement showing the total you pay. Instead you pay taxes hourly, daily, weekly, in little pieces—when you make a purchase or pay your rent or go to a show. And, in a year's time, those little pieces total more than 20 per cent of your entire income. In other words, your earnings for over one month out of the year go to the tax collector instead of into your own pockets.

A search for the man who doesn't pay

taxes would be about as fruitless as Diogenes' classic search for the completely honest man. He would have to be someone who doesn't eat, doesn't wear clothes, doesn't live anywhere, doesn't buy newspapers and magazines—a man, in brief, who doesn't do anything at all and doesn't need anything to do it with. All the rest of us are taxed—and plenty.

Borrowed Comment

IMPROVEMENT
 (From the Insilco Club News)
 Some fifty or sixty years ago, it was suggested by a man who believed that all of the great discoveries and inventions had been made, that the United States Patent Office should be closed. We all know how mistaken he was. Since then the telephone, the automobile, the radio have been developed and television is on the way. Nearly 2,000,000 patents have been issued since that time.

Sometimes we feel that something quite near perfection has been reached in the things we use and come in contact with each day. But there is always a better way. Everything can be improved. Consequently, it's a good idea to look at one's own job frequently to see what can be done to improve the way of doing it.

DECALOGUE FOR NIMROD

- (The Renfro Herald)
- They've been printed before, but maybe you didn't see that issue of the paper. So here's another printing of the ten commandments for hunters as released by the division of game and fisheries of the State Conservation and Developments:
1. Treat every gun with the respect due a loaded weapon.
 2. Carry only empty guns, taken down or with the action open, into your automobile, camp and home.
 3. Always be sure that the barrel and the action are clear of obstructions.
 4. Always carry your gun so that you can control the direction of the muzzle.
 5. Be sure of your target before you pull the trigger.
 6. Never point a gun at anything you do not want to shoot.
 7. Never leave your gun unattended unless you unload it.
 8. Never climb a tree or a fence with a loaded gun.
 9. Never shoot at a flat hard surface or the surface of water.
 10. Do not mix gunpowder and alcohol.

The hunting season usually claims an appreciable toll of human life as well as that of game. As in automobile traffic and other activities in which accidents are frequently recurring, carelessness is the prime factor. Do not allow the excitement of the hunt to endanger your life or that of your companions.

AREN'T WE ALL?

(Goldsboro News-Argus)
 Sunday newspapers carried the following tragic little bit of news:
 "Chicago, Nov. 25.—Mrs. Janet Lincoln lived frugally before her death last week. The 56-year-old widow paid relatives \$5 a week for room and board, pleading inability to pay more.
 "Yesterday she was revealed as the owner of a \$287,300 hoard.
 "A safety deposit box gave up \$279,000 in bills of \$1,000 and \$500 denominations. There was \$5,000 in a bank checking account, and \$3,300 in a savings account."
 A strange story. With wealth in her hands, the woman was poor, poor because she thought she was poor. While she could have lived in fine comfort and ease, doing good for herself and for those around her, she lived in penury and in fear.
 How strange, we say. Yet many of us have mental quirks in our routine existence that are just as queer.
 Many of us surround ourselves with prejudice, hatreds, fears that in their way are just as queer as the life of the woman who lived as a pauper with riches in her hands.

DECEMBER—AGAIN

(Christian Science Monitor)
 Come in, December! We're glad to see you. You never come until the year is nearly over, but you're always welcome. You are bringing us something, you say? Your eleven brothers and sisters who have been here before you this year did, too. There's something nice about them all. And now you are here! What have you in store for us? Oh, you have something besides crops and everyday things? You have starry nights and snow, and frozen ponds for boys and girls to play on up north, and sunny southern beaches when the rest of the country is frozen. Good! Also, shorter days and long, pleasant evenings—but plenty of time to work and study and play, and to ponder what the rest of the year has been and meant.
 You are especially for children? Splendid! Then you surely remember this:
 And the children's face looking up Holding wonder like a cup.
 You bring Christmas? Well, that is best of all! No other month ever brings that, even in these days. Blessings on you, December, and on Christmas; and on all boys and girls, fathers and mothers, grandmothers, uncles, aunts, cousins, friends and firebirds—on homes, holidays and happiness.

The doctor, who says all men are forgetful evidently never borrowed any money.—Miami Daily News.

OPEN FORUM

This is a column open to the public for free expression. THE JOURNAL-PATRIOT does not assume any responsibility for articles printed under this heading, and neither endorses nor condemns them. Please be as brief as possible.

Is The Change In The Time Of Tax Listing Fair To The Farmer?

According to the 1939 Public Law of North Carolina, Chapter 310, Section 303, we are required to list our taxes in January instead of in April as formerly. The flimsy excuse given for this change is that it will give the tax workers more time. Strange to say, this handicap does not cause a dearth of applications for jobs in this work!

On first thought this change appears immaterial, but a more careful consideration reveals that a burden is placed on the farmer. Advancing the time of listing three months catches the farmer with practically all of his food supply and surplus on hand. He has gathered his crops and killed his hogs, consequently he has nearly all of his corn, wheat, rye, meat, potatoes, peas, beans and other supplies, which are still to be consumed or sold.

By way of contrast, take the merchant and the farmer. The merchant has just completed his fall and Christmas sales, depleted his stock of goods and converted his merchandise into cash. He has not stocked up for spring and summer trade and his inventory shows only a small portion of the stock ordinarily carried. The farmer is holding his greatest amount of products, the merchant his least. Furthermore the farmer's products are used primarily for his own consumption, while the merchant's goods are sold for profit. Again if the farmer endeavors to dispose of whatever surplus he may have in order to decrease his tax burden, he must sell at a time when there is an abundance of his products and must accept a lower price. Such action tends to depress prices in farm products and thereby reduce the farmer's income. The merchant, on the other hand, in being able to buy his food more cheaply and thus lower his living cost has a decided advantage over the farmer.

Wealth may be defined as all useful, material things owned by man. Its ultimate source is land, and its value is related to the density of population. Throughout the history of civilization farmers have been the producers of wealth. Yet as a class they have neither possessed much money nor enjoyed a high social status; they have all too often been the victims of economic, social, and political discrimination. It is only in those countries where population is very dense and farm land comparatively scarce that the farmer has been highly regarded. In the United States there have been a few feeble efforts (mainly verbal) to help the farmers. The A.A.A. with its elaborate organization was originally designed to help agriculture, but politicians in using it as a vote-getting and job-giving machine are making the farmer's interest secondary. It has been and still is of some value. But what benefit is it for a national government to help farmers while a state government tries to tax it out of them as the change in time of listing in North Carolina is apparently intended to do?

H. G. DUNCAN, Wilkesboro, N. C.

HIGHER
 Farmers cash income from marketings and Government payments in October 1939 totaled \$894,000,000, larger by \$20,000,000 than the income received in the same month a year ago.

EARLY
 Due to the extremely dry fall, Swain county farmers found it easy to save Korean lespedeza seed as early as the middle of October, says Farm Agent W. B. Nesbitt.

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Farmers Can Get \$30 For Planting Four Acres Trees

Raleigh.—The U. S. Government will pay North Carolina farmers to plant forest seedlings on their land and help reforest it, State Forester J. S. Holmes of the Department of Conservation and Development said today.

Farmers cooperating with the Agricultural Adjustment Administration in carrying on soil building practices and who are participating in benefit payments, may get an additional credit of \$30 each if they will plant as much as four acres of land to forest trees, according to a new bulletin just issued by the AAA in Washington.

"This \$30 will more than pay for the cost of trees and for planting them," said F. H. Claridge, assistant forester in charge of the State Forest Nurseries. "Farmers can buy enough trees and get them planted for \$4 an acre, planting about 1,000 trees to the acre, so that the entire four acres should not cost more than \$16, leaving \$14 clear profit or to spend in planting several more acres."

Approximately 4,000,000 baby forest trees are now almost ready for distribution from the two forest nurseries maintained by the forestry division of the Department of Conservation and Development. These seedlings may be purchased for \$2 per thousand from the State Forester in Raleigh.

Most of these seedlings are loblolly, slash, shortleaf or longleaf pine, although there are several thousand seedlings of other varieties available, including cedar, white pine, black locust and black walnut.

Atlanta Police Chief Gets Odd Request

Atlanta, Nov. 30.—Police Chief M. A. Hornsby received a letter from Athens, Ga., today, written on University of Georgia stationery, asking "reservations in your public hotel for me and a couple of my pals."

The writer neglected to sign his name but explained he was coming to the Georgia-Georgia Tech football game Saturday with "about two gallons of good liquor which must be consumed at the game."

A request was added that "your ushers wait until we have finished the ambrosia before escorting us to our rooms."

"Always glad to oblige," said the chief. "Our rates are \$7 (the usual fine for drunkenness) a night—all rooms without bath."

Hunters Asked To Help Prevent Fires In The Forests

Raleigh.—With the hunting season now in full swing, and fire conditions bad in the forests, hunters can help greatly to prevent forest fires if they will exercise care and caution while in the woods, it was pointed out today by Assistant State Forester W. C. McCormick, in charge of forest fire control for the Department of Conservation and Development.

Approximately 80 per cent of all the forest fires last year were caused by hunters, fishermen and campers, McCormick pointed out. The loss from forest fires in North Carolina last year was approximately \$470,000. Thirty per cent of \$470,000 is \$141,000, or the amount of damage done to forest by the carelessness of those who use and enjoy them most.

"Nothing will help us keep down the number of forest fires in North Carolina as much as the cooperation of the hunters and fishermen," McCormick said. "There is not a hunter in North Carolina who would deliberately start a forest fire or who does not know the damage fires do to game as well as to the trees. But many fail to realize that carelessness in throwing away cigarettes, cigars, matches or even pipe ashes may start large forest fires and frequently do. Improperly extinguished camp fires also cause many forest fires.

"If the hunters will just try to be more careful in discarding cigarettes, cigars and matches and always make sure that all sparks have been extinguished before they are thrown away, they can prevent scores of fires and the burning of hundreds of acres of forest lands. I feel sure the hunters will cooperate with us along these lines."

Freight Rates Parity Dispute Won, South

Washington, Nov. 30.—The South today won its long struggle for equality in freight rates when the Interstate Commerce Commission ordered railroads to wipe out sectional discriminations in freight tariffs on a specific number of commodities and apply the same rate making formula for those in southern states as it does in eastern and northern or "official" territory.

The decision was adopted on a 5-to-4 vote.

While this history-making decision in the case brought by the southern governors applies only to the commodities named in the complaint, it opens the door for similar rate adjustments on textiles and other products which the industrial South is now turning out.

In a dissenting opinion, crackling with criticism, Chairman Joseph Eastman pointed out that national attention has been focused on the governors' case and for this reason the decision of the I. C. C., to which he objected, would be regarded as a new principle in rate making.

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