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INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS

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Arguments Against Hospital Plan No Cure For Illness

It is expected that some few will argue that the proposal plan for North Wilkesboro to erect a modern hospital for only 22 per cent of the cost is a costly proposition.

They have a perfect right to their opinion and expression of same, and no one should fall out about that.

But while we concede that the cost argument to a certain extent is sound, we would hasten to point out that the arguments will not do you or your loved ones any good when they need hospital treatment and can't get it. The few cents you would save on your tax rate by defeating the hospital proposal would look awfully small when you look death in the face, or when that loved one is suffering and with no place in which to be properly treated.

A hospital could not be evaluated in dollars and cents, because if it is a means of prolonging life and preventing human suffering, it is invaluable, and its worth cannot be counted on an adding machine.

Mend That Roof!

There is an ancient joke about the man who didn't mend his leaking roof when it was raining, because it was too wet to work outside, and didn't mend it when the sun was shining, because then there was no necessity for making the repair.

Millions of people seem to follow the same idiotic plan when it comes to fire prevention. For one empty reason or another, they keep putting the job off—and it never gets done.

As an example, this is the proper season of the year for getting ready for winter. A large percentage of all fires result from heavy loads on heating and lighting equipment which has developed defects. Here is where an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure—and the time to have an expert mechanic check over your equipment and put it in safe, efficient shape is now, before the cold, dark days set in.

It is an axiom that a clean, orderly home is a safer home. Closets, basements and attics full of old clothes, magazines, furniture and other junk are a constant attraction to fire. Give your discards away to some charitable organization which can make good use of them—and eliminate another major fire hazard at the same time.

In a phrase—prevent tomorrow's fire today.

Poultry Growing Is Big Industry

The gross income on poultry in Wilkes county yearly is estimated to exceed fifteen million dollars.

There are figures to show that \$12,000,000 worth of feed is sold yearly in Wilkes county. It is probable that 90 per cent of this feed is for poultry.

The poultry industry in Wilkes county comes under the heading of "big business."

The poultry industry could become a much greater factor in the economic life of the county if more of the feed ingredients were produced at home.

During the past few years a number of Wilkes farmers have made excellent profits in production of corn, which is the principal ingredient of commercial feed.

To make substantial profits in corn production, farmers have learned that the old way of producing 10 to 25 bushels per acre is a losing proposition. With the same labor on productive land a farmer can grow four times as much. Practically the same labor and cost necessary to grow 10 bushels on an acre will produce 100 bushels if the land is raised to a high state of fertility and production.

The greater portion of corn used in poultry feeds used in Wilkes is produced in the midwest. There they grow corn at a profit and the farmers there do not receive as much for the corn as the poultry farmers here pay for it. Profits and freight costs are added between the midwestern farmer who grows the corn and the Wilkes poultryman who feeds it.

The grain farmer in Wilkes can receive the midwestern farmer's price for grain, PLUS THE AMOUNT OF PROFITS AND TRANSPORTATION COSTS.

With unlimited market for poultry and with hatcheries of large capacity, and with greater local production of grain, the poultry industry in Wilkes should grow rapidly in the next several years.

Waste By Rats Is Entirely Unnecessary

We have here before us an extensive report on rat control programs in various communities in the United States.

From reading its lengthy report we are more convinced that waste from rats is a most unnecessary evil that should never be tolerated.

Red squill, antu and other chemicals have been compounded which will eliminate rats from any premises if properly used.

But rat control must be a continual process. You can kill your rats and if you do not follow up regularly you will have just as many in a short time as you had before the killing.

That has been the trouble with municipal rat control programs. In North Wilkesboro a few years ago a rat campaign was carried out and thousands of rats were eliminated. But it was only a matter of time until the supply had been replenished.

In many cities laws have been passed to make rat control a continual effort. Property owners are required, for the sake of public health and economic life of the community, to rat-proof their houses and to use rat poison regularly. Very little will be accomplished by a whirlwind with no follow-up efforts.

LIFE'S BETTER WAY

WALTER E. BENTHOOR
High Point, N. C., Route 4

WHY DO PEOPLE NOT BEMOAN?
If getting riches is so grand,
So great, so noble and sublime,
As sought by men throughout the land,
And worthy of their toil and time,
Then why do people not bemoan
The passing of the rich from earth,
And write their names on honor's throne
That would bespeak their truest worth?

When men of riches pass away
It seems nobody weeps and sighs,
Nor rises up to crown the day
When they looked through a rich man's eyes,
Unless, perchance, they've lived for God
And given much to bless the world,
And gone the way that saints have trod
Beneath the flag of love unfurled.

The rich obtain their wealth unfair,
With few exceptions we believe,
And do not seem to think or care
For those they could and should relieve;
Therefore they let their fellows live
In want and poverty and need,
When they could bless if they would give
To Christianize and clothe and feed.

So when the rich in death lays down
Who's gathered stores of wealth somehow,
Nobody wreathes a laurel crown
And places it upon his brow,
And weeps beside his cold, stiff form,
And tells of what a saint he's been,
And how he's rescued from the storm
Those who were sinking low in sin.

It's better then to be a saint
And bless one's country far and near,
And leave a record fine to paint
That tells the world that he's been here,
And lived for God and won the lost,
And helped the pilgrim on his way,
'Til men have counted sin's great cost
And learned to worship God and pray.

Survey Made On Highway P. O. To Johnson City

Greensboro, Aug. 27.—Plans are now being developed which may make Greensboro the hub of about six highway mail truck routes that would radiate into wide areas now lacking railway mail service.

J. B. McGee, district superintendent for Railway Mail Service, made the disclosure yesterday as he announced details of one route now under consideration by postal authorities in Washington. This is the route from Greensboro to Johnson City, Tennessee.

Surveys of the other proposed routes are expected to start in the near future, McGee said. He declined to say what their terminal points might be but said that the routes would extend into towns and rural areas not served by railway mail operations.

Places On Route
An obvious example is the route from here to Fayetteville.

McGee said the Greensboro-Johnson City route, now awaiting Washington approval, would probably run from here to Guilford College, Kernersville, Winston-Salem, Yadkinville, Booneville, Elkin, North Wilkesboro, Laurel Springs, West Jefferson, and Boone in North Carolina, and Mountain City, Elizabethton and Johnson City in Tennessee.

The route, about 250 miles long, is paved all the way, but several weak bridges would have to be strengthened or replaced, McGee said. The special trucks, he pointed out, would weigh about 17,000 pounds empty and about 25,000 pounds when fully equipped and loaded.

Under present plans, 2 trucks would be used, one leaving Greensboro and one Johnson City every morning, six or perhaps seven days a week. There would be two men aboard each truck,

and there would be a third truck which would be held in reserve in case of breakdown.

Would Be First In State

McGee said that if the Johnson City route is approved, it will be the first in North Carolina. Another route, stretching from Asheville to Blue Ridge, Ga., has also been surveyed and is waiting for Washington approval, he said.

He pointed out that the truck service would be a boon to "isolated" towns. Routes have already been successfully established in other states, such as Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Indiana and California.

If the Johnson City route gets official approval, one more stumbling block would have to be removed. Congress has not yet appropriated any money for the specially-constructed trucks, which cost about \$30,000, he said.

Interest in poultry production is increasing in Montgomery county.

The number of soil samples submitted annually to the Soil Testing Laboratory of the State Department of Agriculture has more than doubled during the past four years.



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