

Dentists of State Perform Valuable Service for Children.

Nearly a thousand dentists of the State have contributed two days to the children of the State without reward or hope of reward. At the instance of Dr. Ernest Branch, both president of the Dental Association and head of the oral department of the State Board of Health, the dentists of the whole State consented to give two days to examining the teeth of the school children of North Carolina. It was a great task, especially when it is considered that notes had to be made of the conditions needing remedying and the data left to be forwarded to the parents.

The Dunn dentists were busy Tuesday and as we write are expecting to be on the job again Thursday, or yesterday.

Dr. Branch, by the way, an old pupil of the writer's, has done a wonderful work as an agent of the State Health Department, and now that he is president of the Dental Association he is in position to secure the co-operation of the members of that organization in a most marked degree.

The truth is, we feel that Dr. George M. Cooper, who is essentially the originator of school clinics and Dr. Branch have done more for the recent generations of young people than any other two men in the State. Our own experience as a child, when I should have had an operation for adenoids and got my eye-teeth pulled as tusks instead, makes me appreciative of the saving of so many hundreds of children from the handicaps I suffered. Of course, in those days the serious effects of adenoid troubles were not recognized by even the most advanced physicians. The dental examinations give the finest kind of chance for parents to get information about many troubles besides that of bad teeth, since the condition of the teeth point to basic troubles.

Why Are Women Such Fools.

The writer wishes to reprint with approval the following editorial on the above subject from the Williamston Enterprise. In this connection, it is to be noted that the notorious Dick Roycroft, Raleigh and Durham bootlegger, had a woman along with him when he got killed in an automobile accident. Here is the Enterprise Editorial:

"In a recent raid on a den of thieves, hi-jackets, and vandals, by officers, three women were found with three men of that type whose only business was to break in and steal, and to murder and destroy. Two of these women were said to be married—one with a young son—who had left husbands and homes to lead a life of danger, sin, and destruction. The other was an attractive young girl who had left a home of loved ones to lead a life that has but one ending—destruction.

"We can understand why men, with their spirit of adventure and daredevil principles, will form gangs for the purpose of getting a living by such unlawful acts, but when it comes to a woman throwing her virtue to the four winds and burying herself body and soul in oblivion—it is too hard to understand.

"When we properly evaluate earthly things, the most valuable jewel is a woman's virtue. Yet there are tens of thousands taking the fatal plunge every year, never to see home nor meet friends again.

"Why are women such fools? Cannot the home give a little more warning along these lines?"

Bladen to Celebrate Its Bi-Centennial.

A month ago, the writer remarked the fact that Bladen is to celebrate its bicentennial this year. The date has now been set for April 27, and a great occasion is planned. As part of Harnett was once a portion of Bladen, the celebration will be of local interest. I predict that an immense crowd will attend, though a July celebration would draw a larger one. Again we would remind our Sampson folk that this is the 150th year of Sampson's founding and that it is not too early to begin planning a suitable celebration of the event.

Too Early to Determine About Sales Tax.

Mr. Leonard, president of the Fair Tax Association is ranting for repeal of the sales tax. As the writer said three years ago, when Ehringhaus and Maxwell came out against such a tax, it is too early to determine conditions to exist in 1935. To send a delegation to Raleigh pledged against a sales tax would be fool-hardy.

In the first place, the sales tax is as fair as any tax that can be imposed. True, it relieves big property holders of a considerable sum of property tax. But that cannot be helped except by burdening small property owners with taxes which, it has been proved, cannot be readily paid under conditions prevailing during the past several years. If any person or concern receives relief in this respect because of excessive holdings and comparatively small purchases, it is probable that the income tax gets him or it. Besides, it has been shown that only two counties paid less sales tax last year than was the relief on property tax, and those two counties embraced cities. And it has been notable that the cities have had to bear the brunt of the burden of taxation during recent years. The property tax is heavy, as a rule, because of city expenses and their prorata part in county expenses. In addition, the various license, income, and other really productive taxes fall most heavily upon the cities.

Again, at this stage, one cannot predict the plight of the country a year hence. If employment revives and wages are based upon NRA rates, the sales tax will yield an immense sum with comparatively little burden upon any one. On the other hand, if the New Deal does not pan out and farmers and wage earners are on the ragged edges, it will be a matter of sharing the burdens as equitably as possible.

The thing to do is to send men of brains and character to the Legislature and let them determine the best means of raising funds under conditions then existing or foreseen.

If profits are to be cut, as they should be, and if the little folk are to work short hours and receive big pay, it will be nothing but fair for them to help pay part of the expenses of the schools, from which they benefit more than the great property holders. Personally, the writer has not found the sales tax particularly burdensome, and what he has paid is paid and the agony is over. In fact, any tax that is paid by dribblets is an easy tax. We have noticed that the Sunday school funds in some churches amount almost to as much as the regular church collections, and simply because many, big and little, are regularly contributing those mickles which so readily make a muckle.

We suggest that candidates for the legislature state that they will hold their opinions as to the sales tax in abeyance and act to the best of their wisdom when the conditions, both as to sources of funds and the condition of the various classes of people, are better known than can be now predicted. But such a candidate might give assurance that he will not favor the sales tax if means of tapping the rich treasures of men and concerns that have reaped too greedily where they have not sown and have escaped their fair share of taxation, can be found and such levies can be made to yield a sufficient sum to make the elimination of the sales tax practical. But the property is sufficiently taxed by the towns and counties. No State tax should be levied, under any conditions, upon property. On the other hand, further relief of small property owners would be gratifying.

Train to Run in Cement Trough.

From Russia comes information that an engineer has planned a railway train, with stream lines, to run on balls rolling along a cement trough. The engineer estimates that a 200-mile speed can thus be attained safely. Such a road would need neither rails nor ties. However, it is probable that the troughs would be strengthened with enmeshed steel. There should be little danger of detracking.

Come on out, Charlie Ross. The more the merrier.

Society Must Protect Itself.

Sentimentalists are pleading for a wholesale commutation of the death sentences of more than a score of murderers now held on death row in the state penitentiary.

Never, seemingly, has crime been more rampant or life held cheaper by criminals. Murder has become a rogue. No one can be assured that he will not be murdered as he diligently attends to his own business. Life is taken for what the killer must know can be but a few dollars. Mercy has forsaken the breasts of troops of killers.

On the other hand, law enforcement officers have been unusually efficient and have laid hold of many of the ilk and brought them to court. Juries have been strong and rendered proper verdicts. The judges have done their duty and sentenced the killers to death. And now the penitentiary teems with the beasts, while scores and scores of homes mourn the loss of bread-winners at their hands.

Now come the sentimentalists, forgetting the woe in the wake of the wretched crew, and demand that the deadly vipers be spared to become burdens upon the state for years and years. Already they have left orphans and widows to the tender mercies of a harsh world. Already they have cost the state many thousands of dollars in chasing them down and in court costs. Even now others like unto them may be counting the chances of escaping capture or if caught of paying the ultimate penalty. The vipers multiply. They can but have been impressed with the fact that the chances of escaping capture are growing fewer and fewer. Let them now see that capture means death. Let them begin to figure the value of life to new terms—in that of their own.

It might be a good thing if the newspapers could announce in big letters the execution on the same day of the 23 brutes now on death row, with a detailed list of the crimes for which they have been convicted. Such an array might impress the potential killer with the fact that the state can hold the life of brutes as cheap as the brutes hold the lives of harmless men going about their business of making a living for themselves and families.

If there ever was a time when men should be killed for killing, now is the time.

Something Better to Supersede C. W. A Work.

While the country was lamenting the announced purpose of the administration to close up CWA programs by May 1 and thousands of employees were being dismissed, the fact that Congress had recently voted nearly a billion dollars for relief purposes seems to have been overlooked. President Roosevelt now announces that other schemes are in view, looking to a more permanent relief of unemployment troubles, which are to be financed with that huge sum recently appropriated. That man continues to break out in new places. I am sure that he is convinced, as I am, that a planned economy, from head to foot, can permanently relieve the bad situation into which the haphazard scheme led us.

Manchukuo Becomes An Empire.

That is a wonderful come-back of the former boy emperor of China. Emperor of Manchukuo, the new Japanese-fostered state, ten times as large as North Caro. and possessing billions and billions of cubic feet of virgin timber, iron in limitable amounts, and \$2,000,000,000 worth of gold ore, and with a population of 35 millions the young man has before him a real career—and in the very country in which the great Manchu dynasty arose, of which he was the heir till disposed by the rise of the Chinese republic. Despite its origin under harsh and unfair Japanese auspices and despite Japanese ascendancy to be continued, Manchukuo is giving promise of becoming a wonderfully prosperous country.

There is evidently no lack of work for the OWA in the piedmont section of the state. It may be "made-work", but the weather made it.

No Mail Schedule Demanded the Sacrifice.

A hue and cry has arisen about the death of a few army mail pilots. That clamor has been, or should be, stifled by the death of a greater number on one commercial airplane. But there is no reason that either mail pilot or commercial fliers and their passengers should have died.

With mail trains rushing across the country at fifty miles an hour, with telephone, telegraph, and radio existing in case of any real emergency of instantaneous communication, there was no reason why army pilots should have ventured their lives in weather such as that which brought death to them and loss of valuable planes to the government. In the busiest era, in the best of weather, it is certain that there are very few communications which justify their quota of the millions of dollars expended to maintain the air-mail service. And with weather prevailing such as that of the February weeks, with business largely at a stand-still and with the telegraph or telephone ready to carry messages of life and death, there was certainly no vital excuse for risking life and property to carry a few hours earlier communications which, if not worthless, did not justify the risk of a little finger to hasten their delivery.

The government is paying millions and millions thus to hasten the delivery of air mail while allowing train mail to lie in the post offices for two days without delivery after their arrival. If an airplane letter, transferred at Fayetteville or Raleigh to train, and addressed to an ordinary citizen of Dunn, should arrive at the Dunn post office after noon on Saturday, it would be on toward noon Monday before it would be delivered at his house or before he could get it from the post office unless he had a box.

Yet lives have been sacrificed to hasten a few letters of unknown value north or south, east or west, across the continent. Will Rogers, I ween, was not far from the mark when he said if one should open a sack of the air mail he would find it filled with—well with nothing of break-neck importance.

Uncle Sam can get along all right without any air mail service at all.

The Dunn Production Credit Association Functioning Well.

The Dunn Production Credit Association seems to be functioning actively. This association embraces the territory of Harnett and Sampson. The officials come from Sampson, but the office is in Dunn. R. P. Spell, for quite a period auditor of Sampson County, is secretary-treasurer and is in active charge of the Dunn office. Two of the executive committee, whose duty it is to pass upon all applications for loans, are from Sampson—Messrs. J. M. Page and J. M. Weeks. The third member of the committee is Mr. R. B. Ennis of Harnett.

Another of the Sampsonians engaged in an important capacity by the Association is Mr. Willie A. Jackson. He is the inspector for the Dunn office, and it is his business to visit every farmer desiring a loan and to make an inventory of all his personal property and to secure information about his crops, past and prospective.

From the writer's personal knowledge of these gentlemen, he would judge that it would be difficult to find a more competent bunch of men for this work in either county, or both. By the way, Mr. Page, who served a term as clerk of the court in Sampson, has announced himself as a Democratic candidate again.

Approving Mr. Mann's Advice to Cotton Growers.

The writer wishes to commend and emphasize the importance of the advice of Mr. M. G. Mann, of the Cotton Cooperative Association, at the farmers' meeting in Lillington recently—namely, that Harnett farmers should grow cotton of at least one-inch staple. The factories need that kind of cotton and pay a premium for it. Buy seed that will produce it, even if the cost does seem excessive.

Well, at least we shall have no more cold February days.