

Old-Age Pensions Merits Early Attention.

For several years a million dollars has been appropriated annually for Confederate pensions. The number of Confederate pensioners, actual soldiers in the Lost Cause, has shrunk to a few hundred. Few of the survivors served more than a few months and it is quite certain that not one of the survivors suffered the least physical injury during his service. If one had, he would not be here 69 years afterward to boast of his wound. On the other hand, the most of those who actually bore the brunt of the war are long dead and more than half of them who survived the war never received during their lives pensions equivalent to the dollar a day the boys of 1865 are now receiving.

Again, there are more survivors of an age one to five years younger than the seven-teen-year old boys of 1865 than of the latter and many of those actually suffered more hardships than the boys who survived uninjured the few months of service. Conceive two homes side-by-side. The one has a fifteen-year old boy or girl; the other a 17-year old son. The latter's father comes through the war safe and sound; the former's is killed. The latter youth goes to the army for a few months and comes home unhurt. The 15-year old youth, or perhaps girl of 15 to 20, must assume a great measure of the support of the mother and younger children. The youth back from the war may lay his plans just as if there had been no war. Today they are both living, say. The youth whose father was killed or came home maimed or ill and who assumed the responsibility for the support of his father's family, must eke out his living today the best he can. The boy who served his three-months without injury and who had no responsibility for the care of his uninjured father's family is drawing his dollar a day.

Down in Sampson William Pugh was killed in battle, leaving a widow and four small girls on a little sandhill farm. The widow never drew enough pension to count, if any at all. The surviving girls are now old women. They get nothing. The army youth who suffered very little, if at all, gets his dollar a day.

A Double Reason for Old-Age Pensions in the South.

Twenty-four States, I believe it is, have made appropriations for old-age pensions. Not one of them, I believe, is in the South. Yet there are two reasons here for old-age pensions to one in the north and west. That which motivated the States granting old-age pensions is the feeling that the aged who bore the brunt of life and have reached an age when they can no longer support themselves should have, at least, the consideration of the old horse, which is turned out to pasture and given a pittance of grain. In North Carolina, we have the same reasons as the 24 States for granting pensions and still a more momentous one in the fact that every native of North Carolina over the age of seventy was a child during the war and during the strenuous period following, in

which life was hard and educational facilities almost utterly lacking. Yet it is that generation and those closely following who largely bore the brunt of the State's burden during the educational renaissance, themselves without education yet educating the generation that now dominates the State.

The generosity which so liberally provides for the soldier boys of 1865 should not forget the old women and the slightly younger men who really suffered most from the consequences of the war of the sixties.

A National Pension Best.

A nation-wide pension of the old is the logical step to be taken. And the old-age pension must be a national burden if the old are to receive an adequate support. And that is sure to come, sooner or later. In the meantime, the children of the war days and of the reconstruction days, who were really the greatest sufferers from the folly of the Southern States, are passing out year by year



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and day by day. If they are not helped early, they will receive no help at all. A little is better than nothing. Fifty dollars a year would be a boon to many a lad or lass of the sixties. North Carolina, who is so generous to the soldier boys and their widows unto the third and fourth marriage, should have regard to the greater group of sufferers from the war of the sixties.

The State Liberal to Office-Holders.

North Carolina is liberal to its judges, its college presidents, and possibly other officials who retire in old age. Each retired judge gets each year what would mean many of the comforts of life to thirty to fifty men and women who have suffered and toiled as no judge in North Carolina, no college president, has ever suffered or toiled.

A Good Campaign Plank.

In Harnett county a representative is still to be chosen. Here is a plank for a platform that either of the contestants might well adopt—moderate pensions immediately for all North Carolinians over the age of seventy—not a self-respect destroying dole but a worthily bestowed recompense for sufferings and deprivations undergone through no fault of their own, and for services that have been largely instrumental in providing the superb facilities and opportunities that the younger generations have enjoyed, and are enjoying.

Some Re-Alignments Really Amusing.

It is really amusing to note some of the re-alignments on the question of a sales tax the past three years. In the spring of 1931, when home and farm owners were sweating blood under the burden of taxation and when hundreds of thousands of men and women who have since been idle were drawing good wages and spending their money freely with no thought of a tax burden, the battle waged for weeks for relief of the home and farm owners through the levy of a sales tax of one kind or another. At that time and for two years more Governor Ehringhaus was either silent as to the issue or expressing disapproval of a levy of any kind of sales tax. Editor Waynick of High Point, a member of the General Assembly, was aligned with the opponents of the sales tax. The Chapel Hill Weekly was a strong antagonist of the sales tax idea. Today we find these three more or less strenuous opponents of the sales tax in 1931 championing the continued levy of the present tax.

Up in Chatham county, Victor Johnson, representative at that time and mightily pleasing the voters of the county by his relentless support of the sales tax levy, any kind, was turned down flat the other day by his supporters of the earlier day in favor of former Senator W. P. Horton, who greatly angered his Chatham constituency in 1931 by thwarting the effort of the sales-tax brigade in the senate to pass the Hinsdale bill. It is doubtful if Horton could have immediately carried even his little Williams township. Last Saturday he was re-elected to the senate by a majority over his two opponents, with Johnson, the hero of 1931, tailing the ticket.

The land tax has been eliminated—that is, for State purposes and for county and district school taxes. The relief has been great. Now the land owners are assured that the General Assembly will not have the hardihood to relevy a property tax for State or school purposes and are ready, many of them, to see the sales tax abolished.

The same levy as now in force would have brought in much more money in 1931 and 1932 than in 1933 and 1934. Yet men voted for it in 1933 who opposed it in 1931, and men are now championing it who detested the very idea in the earlier year when it might have served a double purpose. On the other hand, men who favored such a tax in 1931, when every other source of tax funds now available existed, are opposing the tax this year.

This is a funny old world, anyhow. But here is guessing that a continuance of the sales tax will be found necessary, especially if the legislators go with the idea that State employees, including teachers, are starving and that other folk are prospering.—And some are prospering, but only a comparatively few. The relief list the coming winter should greatly aid legislators in determining the comparative wel-

fare of State employees and the masses of the people. But the average legislator will judge that the State is now able to pay higher salaries if he sees a few of his neighbors buying new automobiles, though hundreds in his community may be eking out the barest living.

Our one word of advice to the prospective legislator is to go to Raleigh with a true perspective of conditions in the State, and to base his votes with respect to tax levies and salary advances upon the real condition he finds existing at that time, or likely to exist during the bi-ennium.

Senator Bailey Plays Part of Small-Calibre Cross-Examiner.

The fear expressed in writing the Tugwell article early Monday morning that Senator Bailey would make an ass of himself seems to have been well founded. He assumed the roll of examiner of Prof. Tugwell before the committee yesterday and spent two hours in nagging him in the manner of a small-calibre lawyer cross-examining a witness. One of the questions asked by the North Carolina Solon is whether Tugwell had not argued against the laissez-faire principle in business. And what a fool anyone is who has not! For the information of those who do not understand the French phrase "laissez-faire," let me say that it means for everybody to do just as he dog-gone pleases in business—the old principle of dog-eat-dog. We are still in the middle of the bad fix into which the practice of that principle has led us.

No Second Solicitorial Race in Fourth District.

The decision of Daniel L. Bell, of Pittsboro, not to contest the nomination of Claude Cannaday, of Benson, for the nomination for Solicitor in this district saves considerable expense to the counties that have no other contests and much strain and expense to both gentlemen. It is apparent from the remarkable run that Mr. Cannaday made that the odds would have been greatly in his favor. The big lead of Mr. Cannaday would have meant that Judge Bell would have had to secure a considerable majority in both Harnett and Wayne, or a majority of the combined vote of the two. The indications are that Mr. Bell has acted with discretion, for that man Claude Cannaday is a campaigner from 'way 'way back. He went down to Mount Olive, one of the remotest points in his district and beat everybody, in fact, the whole bunch together, I believe, doubling the vote of the Wayne candidate.

Well, both men are fine fellows and good lawyers. It is a pity that both cannot have good jobs, but there is no question that the district will have an able Solicitor in Mr. Cannaday.

New England will not have another total eclipse until October 1959.

One Chinese newspaper, at Peiping, has been published continuously for 1400 years.

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