

The Fifth Article in School Series

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teachers. The response has been in the negative in every case. The "no-account" teacher couldn't do worse, and the real teacher wouldn't. I believe the poorest work I ever did as a teacher was when I was receiving the highest pay I ever received. The pay wasn't the cause, but attending circumstances. On the other hand I am sure that I never did more effective work than one term in the nineties when I got \$300 for the session. The size of the wage does not determine the quality of the work of any real man or woman in any kind of job. Such a one does his best under the circumstances, regardless of wage.

But the Ox Deserves His Fodder.

Yet the laborer is worthy of a hire commensurate with his service; the ox that treads out the grain should be allowed a full ration of the fodder. Yet comparisons must not be limited to the more fortunate groups. The big business man or the lawyer who receives many and high fees, who can "make" a month's salary of his high-priced stenographer in the turn of the floor, can offer and does pay competent secretaries more than the state can pay teachers. The comparison, or contrast, in such cases is unfair to the state. You may be sure that all such plums lack no pickers. It is the fashion to weep now over the inroads of the business office upon teacherdom. But be assured that there are not enough of these well-paid jobs to supply the tens of thousands of teachers in the state, and that all such jobs have never gone without takers. It is unfortunate that our economic system allows over-pay in some cases (the lawyer or big businessman as well as his secretaries). It is the fact that a few can gather unto themselves more than their rightful share, measured by their services to society, that causes others to get less than their rightful shares.

But teachers are not the only groups who suffer by comparison with the incomes of the more fortunate or the bigger grabbers. No North Carolina teacher has suffered the loss of home because of low salaries, or has had to go on the relief roll. No teacher has been glad to get a dollar a day for work with which to support a wife and children as have saw mill hands, farm laborers, and thousands of others, nor like the farmers for five years, with all hands working, failed to make enough to keep the roof over his or her head.

Incomes of Large Groups Low.

The teachers form a considerable group in North Carolina. If there were only twenty of them as there are of superior court judges, high salaries could be paid without serious violence to the deserts of the masses. Yet, as pointed out in the fourth article, the schools of North Carolina have within the last fifteen years absorbed more money than all the schools in the state had formerly absorbed in the history of the commonwealth, as colony and state. We old-time teachers know what really low salaries are, and realize that moderation must prevail. Real teachers should be paid better, but there are hundreds of thousands of other people whose interests must be consulted. For don't think that when a merchant pays his half-dozen license taxes that the poor devil barely eking out a living does not contribute his mite. When the railroads pay in their great tributes to the state, be assured that the funds have been gathered from rich and poor from one end of the state to the other. The sales tax is not the only tax that reaches the poor. Freight charges, increased by heavy taxation of the railroads, for instance, are involved in the prices of the goods all of us purchase. Even levies upon tobacco products raise the price of the one chief luxury of the hard-ups.

In short, when it comes to compensating as large a group as the teachers of North Carolina, it is absolutely beyond reason that luxury salaries can be paid. Let the aggrieved teacher consult the steward at the State Hospital, who works at the hazard of his life with his insane helpers in the kitchen, or the road hands who work in the open in all seasons, and even some of the department workers at Raleigh, compare hours and compensations, and then be happy in that their lot is so much more fortunate than that of many others who are doing their best in jobs essential to the welfare of the state.

But here is commending the Governor for recommending that teachers' salaries be raised at least fifteen percent. Also, let us endorse his preference for a good teacher with a larger teacher load to poor teachers with any kind of load, and I note his accord with the writer in the opinion that high salaries do not assure first-rate schools. We had the period of high salaries and I never saw sorer schools, as judged by the

HOW NOT TO STOP DRUNKEN DRIVING.

Of course the logical way to stop people from driving cars while drunk is to keep them from drinking intoxicating liquor. The way to stop drinking is to stop the manufacture and distribution of alcoholic liquors. But there has been no whole-hearted effort to do the latter thing. The howl was raised that the enforcement of prohibition was too costly. Yet as soon as the 18th amendment is repealed we find the cost of efforts to prevent illegal liquor manufacture and sales jumps over a half-million dollars.

It is not feasible to place enough highway patrolmen on the roads to detect all drunken drivers. A hundred men looking out for illegal liquor, and in North Carolina that means all intoxicants, would stop more drunken driving than the same number of men scattered over 60,000 miles of state and county roads on the lookout for violations of the traffic laws.

Nevertheless, the courts can and should punish drunken drivers effectually, and sure penalties imposed upon those guilty of the crime of driving cars while drunk, along with a real enforcement of the prohibition laws, would soon reduce this menace to a shadow of its present self.

But as long as courts make a farce of punishing those offenders and as long as state authorities take it for granted that the prohibition law cannot be enforced in an effective degree, the sway of death may be expected to continue upon the highways, however many highway patrolmen there may be. The chances are that an accident a day might happen for a year in the same spot without a patrolman's being in sight, even if there were a hundred of them.

"Drunken Drivers Thumb Noses at Court"

A recent editorial in the *Fayetteville Observer*, under the above title, clearly indicates the way not to stop drunken driving. If the Recorder would sock such offenders as described with sentences to jail for contempt of court, his mandates would be more respected. Here is what the *Observer* says:

"Do the people of Cumberland county really want the law against drunken driving enforced?"

"Are the courts of Cumberland county making an efficient effort to enforce the law?"

"If a greater negative answer were desired, a more suitable 'No' would hardly have been found than in the example set Monday when a gentleman was arrested for the fourth time in six months for the offense.

"Arrested in August he was prohibited from driving for 90 days but was arrested driving in September and again was prohibited from driving for 90 days.

Doubtful If State Gets Money's Worth.

I still believe that the State is failing to get its money's worth from its school system, including the higher institutions, and that the suggested increase of salaries will be unjustified from that point of view. Nevertheless, the thousands of teachers who are rendering the requisite service should not have to bear all the consequence for the faults of the system itself and of the serious sprinkling of incompetents in the teacher group.

The system that permitted these incompetents to get into the school rooms is to blame more than is the competent majority of teachers. The prevalence of a senseless economic scheme and an impractical tax system for government for the benefit of government employees and wards is accountable for the lack of the wealth necessary to compensate teachers in the measure they deserve. Under the circumstances, the real teachers must play the goat and bear the consequences of economic sins and the sins of the founders of the school system. But all the rest of us should be taxed to the extent of enabling the State to increase the pay to the extent the Governor suggests.

Instead of completing the discussion in this issue, I here refer you to the article entitled: "Old-Age Pensions to be Based Upon False Economic Principle." Read that and see if you do not see how an abundance of wealth may be provided to put the whole teacher tribe upon clover. The ancient Hebrews supported one whole tribe as teachers and priests. The article referred to shows how North Carolina or the Nation as a whole may provide abundance for its teachers and other employees and all its unfortunates without causing others to have one mouthful of food less or any other necessity or luxury—there will simply be an excess created for the government's needs, with no over-taxing of anybody, physically or otherwise.

With that reference to the other article, I find an excuse to await the next issue to complete this discussion.

ing for 90 days.

"Fact that no notice was taken in September of the contemptuous treatment of the court's August ruling indicates either that the court itself had no respect for its own judgments, or that the business of the court was conducted in such a haphazard manner that the court did not know from month to month what its own judgments were.

"More evidence to this effect is piled up by the same driver who is again arrested on December 7 before the 90-day driving prohibition imposed on him in September has expired—charged with the same old offense.

"One might think that this would have been the straw that broke the camel's back—the end of the jig.

"But no—instead of being slapped into durance vile for double contempt of court the defendant is granted not one continuance, not two continuances, not three continuances—but four—and Heaven alone knows how many more continuances would have been forthcoming had not the defendant—not yet divorced from a steering wheel—collided with a Government truck under conditions which led to his arrest number four, just 45 days after his third arrest for which he had never been tried.

"The case is not helped any by the fact that the court had before it all the time, the recent example of another defendant engaging in a fatal wreck while awaiting trial on a drunken driving charge many weeks previous.

"Perhaps the court can stomach the rank indignity offered it in this case, but the indignity is not to the court alone but to the people who pay their taxes to support the courts and to obtain fancied protection through the action of the courts.

"When the courts fail to supply the people with protection—as they have very patently failed to do in this case—it is the right of the people to complain that they are being short-changed.

"So much for being perhaps too critical of really conscientious officials.

"We'd lots rather applaud than criticize.

"Let them get busy now and show us that the law against drunken driving can be enforced and that the Recorder's Court of Cumberland county can enforce it—promptly.

"It's one of the surest ways to end the slaughter on the highways that is making North Carolina the scandal of the Nation, and making Cumberland county the scandal of North Carolina."

About Middle-Marking the Highways.

The one real way to prevent automobile accidents is for drivers to keep on their side of the road. The State cannot put enough patrolmen on the highways to assure that end. The prime requisite seems to be to mark clearly the middle of the highways so plainly that even a drunken driver must know when he is on his side of the road.

Yet the white markings on curves at present present a menace in themselves, especially when wet. Yet it is possible to eliminate that menace by sanding the paint. We were looking at the American Markers' equipment for this work the other day. That equipment will undoubtedly do the marking in an effective way and at less cost than the same work can be done by other means.

In the first place, a blast of air precedes the laying of the paint, thoroughly removing the dust film which would otherwise prevent adherence to the cement. The paint is blown into every crevice or opening in the cement, while grit by the same blast method is driven into the paint. The result is clear marking that reflects the light and becomes less a mirror to glance it forward; while the ingrained grit eliminates the present menace of the slippery white paint in curve markings.

It has been demonstrated by actual trial that such a marking from Fuquay Springs to Raleigh lasted two years, while the testimony of a former coroner is to the effect that the number of fatal accidents on that 16-mile length of highway was considerably diminished.

We do not wish to seem to be advertising the American Highways Markers' equipment, but if Mr. B. B. Sapp has invented a machine which will enable the State to save the lives of many citizens, it seems important enough to justify this article calling attention to this means of lessening the number of fatalities upon the highways, which slaughter is becoming more and more distressful each year.