

ANGIER AND A FEW OF ITS CITIZENS

I am contemplating giving Harnett county a big write-up in a future number. But two or three hours spent the other day in Angier was so enjoyable that I wish to say a few words here about this good Harnett county town and a few of its citizens I had an opportunity to chat with.

Unfortunately passers on the highway cannot gauge the importance of Angier. Though the two or three blocks of good brick business buildings are within little more than a hundred yards of the highway, the big saw mill and other less attractive buildings cut off the transient's view. You will be surprised if you drive in and see that Angier is a real town.

In a Great Tobacco Area.

Angier is in the heart of one of the best tobacco areas in the State. Upper Harnett produces great quantities of the leaf and that of high grade. Dr. Young is one of the largest growers in the State. His acreage has reached as high as four hundred per season. Mr. Currin a short distance south of the town is also a large tobacco grower. He is one of the Cranville Currins. If you should take all the Granville people out of Harnett the population would be greatly diminished.

Getting an Education Against Odds.

I particularly enjoyed talking with Mr. F. T. Dupree and Mr. W. M. Crawford whom I caught together in Mr. Dupree's office.

It was gratifying to get from Mr. Dupree confirmation of my statement in one of the school articles that two years is enough for any one to learn arithmetic thoroughly or as well as he will ever learn it, provided the study is not begun till the student has reached somewhat of maturity.

When Mr. Dupree, now a scholarly attorney, was 21 years old he had been to school one month. He then started to school and when he had been to school 22 months he had completed two arithmetics, including the highest taught in Harnett county, had waded through an algebra or two, had completed the elementary Latin grammar and read four books of Caesar, and had made similar progress in English, history, geography, etc.

He then attended the University law school 18 months and began the practice of law. His schooling, accordingly, sums up to 41 months, or approximately the equivalent of five eight-month terms.

Imagine how nauseating it should be to a man who has thus got a real education to hear all the bosh about penalizing present-day children by not providing funds in such abundance as was the practice a few short years ago! However, he didn't express an opinion on that matter. And then hear Mr. Crawford's story. He is 66 years old and therefore came up when educational advantages were fewer than in Mr. Dupree's young manhood. Mr. Crawford was reared in Alamance county and the school was so far away when he was little that he couldn't navigate the long muddy way in mid-winter. When he got larger, his father told him he could then go to school, but instead of going, he worked in the

day and with his father's assistance mastered the fundamental subjects of the school at home, keeping up his night study till within a short period of his marriage.

He held one of the most responsible positions in the Erwin mill plant for years and now has a good business at Angier. It takes only a minute to size Mr. Crawford up as a man of calibre and understanding. Here, then, were two of the most intelligent citizens of the county whose whole schooling, measured in months at the school houses, amounted to that of a sixth-grade pupil of the present day. As Mr. Crawford remarked, the fellow that wants to know can find opportunity to learn and the other fellow will not learn much at the best. Yet the next generation would be utterly ruined if they have any less than an eight-month term each year, and is liable to flat failure if the term is not increased to nine months! Alas, what a tragedy has threatened these hard years!

Here is another interesting gentleman—Mr. J. A. Hockaday, one of Angier's leading merchants. He had better educational opportunities in his youth than either Mr. Dupree or Mr. Crawford. He graduated at Buie's Creek before the college days.

In 1897 graduation at Buie's Creek, though its course was nothing like the high school course of to-day, meant a good education—and it was that very thing. I doubt if a college course would have better qualified Mr. Hockaday to serve his county several years as county commissioner, as he did, and now as a member of the county board of education, and for 25 years as a member of the Angier school committee. Among the present posts of distinction he holds is that of director of the East Carolina Chamber of Commerce. He is a prosperous and intelligent citizen.

Dr. Young was sick, Doctor Byrd off to see a patient, and my young friend Dr. Glenn Wilson, who recently resigned as health officer of Sampson county to associate himself with Dr. Young, was about worn down with the heavy work falling upon him during Dr. Young's illness. Mr. W. M. Morgan, a brother of the well known Perry Morgan of the N. C. Baptist Sunday school force, was away. I was not feeling like work and therefore cut my visit down to about two hours. When Harnett's turn for a big write-up in *The Voice* comes, I shall attempt to introduce quite a number of Angier's fine citizens to our constantly increasing number of readers, already spread from the mountains to the sea. But I wanted to introduce these three or four fine fellows to you now, and I might include Mr. Dupree's fine young law partner—H. C. Strickland, a bright young attorney and giving promise of "cutting considerable ice" in Harnett affairs as the years pass. But I shall have more to say when the special Harnett edition of *The Voice* appears. I think of making it double-size so that Harnett may be thoroughly represented before the eyes of our thousands of readers scattered over sixty counties of the State.

STATIC POPULATION FIGURES IN ECONOMICS OF THE FUTURE

The following article from the hand of Charles F. Stewart, Washington City correspondent of a number of papers, has been quite well broadcast; yet its review of Prof. Baker's discussion of the effect of the increasing ratio of workers to the whole population, due to the tendency of the latter to become static, is important enough to justify the emphasis of republication. Perhaps you haven't read it, but even if you have, review it.

This period has been subjected to a number of transition influences which make it all the more difficult to adjust the economic machinery. It was as late as the last issue of this paper that the effect of greatly increased totals of insurance premiums paid in proportion to the redistribution of insurance funds was cited as one of the influences having a serious effect upon the total of consumption. But even if the uneconomic scheme of life insurance, which furnishes an example of the "saving of what isn't" recently discussed, should continue to prevail, the level of collections from the people and the return of funds, though not of counterbalancing effect upon consumption, will find the same approximate level. But consider here the one matter of the bearing of the decreased birthrate and the prolongation of life, which throw the ratio of the number of adult workers seriously out of proportion with the number of consumers.

MR. STEWART'S REVIEW.

Washington, Feb. -8.—President Roosevelt's

land plan takes into consideration an American population tendency for which few scientists have made the slightest allowance in their search for cause of the depression of the last five years.

Yet it looks as if it were a mighty important consideration.

Increase of population is slowing down. There still is some increase, but, with each succeeding year, there is a shrinkage in the annual percentage of increase.

Professor Oliver E. Baker of the agriculture department's bureau of economics, the country's foremost authority on the subject, estimates that, by 1960, or only 25 years hence America's population will arrive at a constant of about 139 millions; thence-forward the death rate will equal the birth rate.

Readjustment Necessary.

This will be all right, says Professor Baker, if Americans have readjusted their economies to suit changed conditions.

China, for example has a stationary population of a by no means satisfactory sort. It is stationary because it has reached its subsistence limit. It still strives to increase itself, but it can't accomplish it; surplus babies immediately die.

America's population, if it stops increasing in 1960, will have remaining resources sufficient for twice as many more inhabitants.

But, points out Professor Baker, here's the danger.

LIQUOR AND SOCIALISM

(Continued from Page Two)

why not into banking? That money is the root of all evil seems to be the very definite opinion of many people, as the profit motive seems to be the thought behind the bill proposing to put the State into liquor selling.

If Mr. Hill's bill is presented for a discussion and vote of the people, there will no doubt be many communists and socialists who will impress upon the people that Mr. Hill believes a system of distribution in accord with their plans the most perfect. They will ask if liquor can be handled better this way, why not banks, cotton mills, fertilizer factories and tobacco factories? Why not distribute milk this way?

It is to laugh to think of Sprunt Hill as a socialist leader and promoter. Liquor will do many things and curious things, but never had I expected to see it make this man the leading exponent of a law to establish a socialistic theory of business operation in North Carolina.

PAUL J. BARRINGER,
Sanford, N. C.

"America, throughout its history, has geared itself more and more strenuously in an economic sense, to support a rapidly growing population. At times population's growth has been so rapid that production has had to exert itself to keep pace with the growth.

"Then, just after the war, with production at an all-time maximum and still gaining velocity, the brakes were put on the growth of population."

Immigration virtually was shut off.

The birth rate fell. Folk were gaining sophistication, for one thing; they wanted fewer children. There was a gravitation from the farms where children are helpful as soon as they have passed infancy into the cities, where they are a liability until they reach near-maturity. Besides, no new foreigners were arriving—and they were the class which, previously, had produced the large families.

Professor Baker is too sound an economist to admit such a thing as over-production mankind's wants being limitless, but he recognizes the existence of maladjustments.

Illustratively, although agriculture is advertised as having been overdone, there are many farmers, he says, who can't make adequate livings because they haven't enough fertile land.

"Assume the case," he once remarked to me, "of a person of three or four generations ago, who squatted on a tract as large as he could clear and cultivate, and sufficient to support his family in the Kentucky or Tennessee highlands. With his death, it was divided among his children; when they died, among their children. Today there isn't a patch on which a family can grub out better than semi-starvation. Or maybe there hasn't been a complete division. Perhaps, now and then, an heir has loaded himself with debt, to pay off his fellow heirs, and possibly has kept the whole ancestral area intact. In that event, the place's load of obligations makes it unprofitable."

Professor Baker submits that this is a ridiculous situation, in a country which he foresees, will arrive at a stationary population in 1960, with three times the resources needed to support it.

Reeking the countryside of these sub-marginal holdings, on which no occupant can make a decent living, no matter how hard he tries, is the purpose of the presidential program, evolved by the land planning committee of the national resources board.

Eviction isn't contemplated; the idea is to transfer the tiller of a hopelessly unprofitable patch to a profitable one—and to re-commit the unprofitable one to nature; trees or pasturage or whatever it's fitted for.

And, after all, agriculture is the foundation of the industries. If it prospers, they prosper.

The scheme is somewhat too basic to have a spectacular appeal.

Nevertheless, it makes sense, fully analyzed. As Professor Baker puts it, a country with three times the resource it requires, to support its inhabitants, certainly should be able to support them.

The solution seemingly isn't merely temporary either.

If the experts are right, population and resources approximately have found their respective permanent levels.

Not an issue of *The Voice* passes in which we might not mention the death of several friends. This time among those gone is the veteran locomotive engineer, Captain Alston of Pittsboro, who for more than forty years ran the Moncure-Pittsboro train.