

Introducing Some Solons

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 years by the labors of some of the Stanford ladies, but in broadening its resources and extending its sphere of usefulness. He was surprised himself when the board of commissioners of which he was a member approved his suggestion that the county contribute \$1,000 to the library for the purchase of books and for the extension of the benefits of the library to all the communities of the county. The next year he saw the appropriation increased to \$1,500.

Stations were established in the several communities of little Lee, and the books made accessible to all the people of the county. Though the library possessed but 4,000 books when this extension work be-

picture in this paper last fall. He is no handsome fellow, but nevertheless a young lawyer of parts. Asked the other day whether he had introduced any bill or would introduce one, Lee said, we already have laws enough. I suggested that he introduce a bill to repeal some of the excess. But I believe Lee Moody has little desire to magnify himself but may be as well trusted as any man in the legislature to cast his ballots for whatever measures he conceives to be for the interest of the people of the State.

The Townsend Plan An Unreasonable One.

Old-age pensions is a most desirable and an equally practicable thing, but not on the Dr. Townsend plan. When pensions are paid the aged, it is assumable that the total consumption of the country will be increased and that there will be room for more workers. The Townsend plan would deplete the supply of workers immensely. With \$400 a month coming to this writer and his wife, it would be possible for them to take care of the families of the three married children and the unmarried daughter, and not one of the bunch strike a lick. Every old negro receiving such a pension could take care of at least ten or twelve of his race.

Few above sixty would continue to work if working meant foregoing a \$200 a month pension. The world is full of work needing being done, but putting millions out of employment is not the way to do it.

A reasonable pension, sufficient to sustain the decrepit in comfort and to supplant the income of the more active would be a fine thing. If the Townsend plan has any merits at all, it would lose none of them by fixing the monthly pension at \$40 or \$50. The "must-spend-it" condition could still apply. When the pension payment is reduced to a reasonable sum, the Townsend plan is simply an old-age pension plan—something that is destined to come in the near future.

Yet perhaps, nothing is doing more to hasten the day of a reasonable old-age pension than the agitation of the Townsend plan.

Governor Can Choose Better Than the People.

Dr. Burrus, Guilford senator, has introduced bills to make the commissioner of revenue and the chairman of the highway commission elective. The writer hopes these bills will not become law. The people have too little chance to determine the fitness of a man for such a position to be given any such responsibility. It is as much as the average voter can do to understand the characters and platforms of presidential and gubernatorial candidates. Try getting your qualifications for a minor position before the people during a gubernatorial and presidential campaign if you think the people will give any attention to the qualifications of candidates for other jobs.

Instead of increasing the number of elective officers, the number should be decreased. If the people decide wisely with respect to the governor, they can afford to trust him to choose the best men available for the responsible tasks. And there are no two positions more important from the standpoint of the people than that of revenue commissioner and chairman of the highway commission. The gift of gab, a hail-fellow-well-met disposition, and a gift for getting votes do not necessarily qualify one for either of those exceedingly important jobs.

The gubernatorial appointments have been, with only one or two exceptions, very happy during the last 18 years. Only when Watts was appointed instead of Maxwell was

too little regard to the interests of the people given by any governor in the appointment of the head of a department since our return to the State in 1917. In fact, the voters have almost universally confirmed the gubernatorial appointments to elective positions, and there would have been little doubt about their confirming the appointment of Maxwell and Jeffress. Yet either of those two men might have been beaten in a primary before their ability was recognized by the governors and proved by their services. The same thing will probably soon be true of Wayne. What, for instance, did the people know about the qualifications of Charles Johnson as treasurer?

Seeking to Keep Down Tobacco Acreage.

Governor Ehringhaus led a deputation of those interested in tobacco growing to Washington to seek to prevent the proposed increase in acreage this year. The tobacco growers have thoroughly learned the lesson that a small crop pays better than a large one. However, keep the acreage down as much as possible, it is unlikely that North Carolina tobacco growers will again have such a picnic as that of last year. If the dollar should go, back to par, in terms of gold, those foreign manufacturers wouldn't be able to force the American manufacturers to pay such prices as they did last year.

That \$3,000,000 Expenditure Doesn't Represent a Loss.

The fact that three million dollars are needed to put the roads and bridges in good shape doesn't imply that that sum has been wasted in allowing them thus to deteriorate. It would probably have required as much or more to prevent the deterioration, and some of the earlier repairs would soon be calling for other repairs. The roads should be in better condition when this \$3,000,000 has been spent than if that sum had been spent during the past two years.

What If Governor's Mansions Were as Numerous as Schools?

It is an interesting contrast we find "A Citizen" of Hoke county drawing in the Raeford paper between the household and personal expense allotments to the Governor and to the whole bunch of schools in Hoke county. Like the writer of that article, this writer is not disposed to be over-critical of the expense funds allowed the governor, for North Carolina's chief executive should live in some dignity; nevertheless, the contrast is enlightening. Here it is:

"We have no criticism of Governor Ehringhaus whatever, but we feel that the residents of the county would be interested to know that it cost \$9,700 last year to maintain the executive domicile and that it is understood \$17,000 will be asked for the same purpose for 1935 and that all that could be secured for Hoke county schools for the same period was \$2,199.00. Janitors, \$725.00; fuel, \$1,130.00; water, light, and power \$220.00 and telephone \$24. There are six janitors getting from \$10.00 to \$30 per month. The housekeeper of the governor's mansion is to get \$1,035.00 a year while the highest paid teacher receives slightly more than half that amount.

"The schools get \$335.93 per truck for transportation per year for driver, gas and oil, and repairs. The governor is to get \$500.00 for gas and oil. Yet there are those who think that trucks can be operated to everybody's house and that men drivers should be employed all for only \$335.93 per truck per year. It can not be done."

What a Silver Dollar Means In China.

Those wisecracks who suppose that a coin or bill of currency has its buying power fixed by the preciousness of the metal of which it is made or which is backing it, my study the following item from China. A silver dollar will buy here nothing like the amount it will in China; yet it is silver and worth 34 cents in gold in both countries. If the difference in the purchasing value does not lie in the difference in the numbers of dollars circulating, per capita, in the two countries, where does it lie?

Again, how can China, whose supply of currency and prices of goods and services are in accord in its own territory afford to buy American goods when the earning of a dollar over there requires several times the amount of capital or labor as earning one over here.

It is clear, or seemingly should be, that the very same kind of money has different values in different countries, and all because of the number of units in circulation per capita. The devaluation of the American dollar reduced its value in relation to foreign currencies, but that devaluation has had no effect upon the buying power of a dollar in this country, except through the increased competition of foreign countries for American products—tobacco the most notable example. The increase in prices of products not in demand in other countries is due not to the devaluation of the dollar but to the hundred things done to increase buying power and to decrease supplies or the cost of goods.

But here is the little dispatch from China, showing what 34 cents in China means in rent. Figure out how China can buy from us or how it can afford to if it could. And don't wonder at America's losing her trade in any country just so soon as it can manage to produce under almost any handicap its own supply or invent a substitute. The difference in the values of currencies, a difference attributable to per capita circulation and not to kind of money, is the greatest hindrance to a revival of foreign trade.

House Rents for One Silver Dollar.

Tsingtao, China. — Several hundred "model" homes for workingmen have been built in a suburb of Tsingtao as the city's contribution to a "better homes" movement. They rent for one silver dollar, equivalent to 34 cents, a month.

\$3,800 a week for clerks, pages, doorkeepers, janitors, etc. for the legislature is an inexcusable extravagance. Harnett is getting a liberal share of the nigh-graft.

The number of lawyers present at Judge Clifford's funeral was indicative of the high esteem in which he was held by his professional brethren. There must have been sixty to seventy-five lawyers here.

We are on the anniversary of that coldest of all cold spells in our memory, beginning with snow on February 14th and 15th of 1899 and reaching its climax with a blizzard from the northwest on Monday the 16th. I always feel a fear of the worst winter weather of the year till this anniversary period is passed.

Representative Fred Thomas is doing a good part in helping through a bill to rid the State of the slot machine nuisance.

We note in the Raleigh news that Senator F. A. Lee is not only personally opposed to the Hill liquor bill, but also states that the people of Harnett, judging by the number of letters and petitions from those opposing the Hill bill, are in the majority. Good.



REPRESENTATIVE R. L. HARRIS
Former Speaker.

the first four months saw 6,000
 ans of books made.

So well known is Mr. Crabtree
 for his interest in the library work
 that it was only a short while ago
 that the Dunn coterie of ladies in-
 terested in developing the same
 kind of library service in Harnett
 that Lee has secured Lee's youth-
 ful legislator to make a speech
 down here in the interest of the
 program.

C. H. Crabtree, known among his
 friends as "Ty," majored in phar-
 macy at the University, studying
 under that prince of teachers E. V.
 Howell. As his father is a drug-
 gist Ty hadn't the trouble of most
 of the fellows coming out of col-



REPRESENTATIVE W. L. LUMPKIN
of Franklin.
 cent author with Representative Mc-
 Donald of a substitute for the
 sales tax.

age in recent years looking for a
 job—he naturally entered the busi-
 ness with his father. But he seems
 to have a genius for politics and
 handsome and genial as he is, may
 quite a distance in that direction
 within the next forty years.

J. Lee Moody.
 Chatham, in the person of Sena-
 tor W. P. Horton, has one of the
 most experienced legislators in the
 present session of the General As-
 sembly. Her representative is a
 novice. We published Lee Moody's