

THE STATE'S VOICE

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Published Twice a Month at Dunn, N. C.
FOR STATE-WIDE CIRCULATION
SUBSCRIPTION PRICE: \$1 a Year; 3 Years \$2.25

Entered at the Post office at Dunn, N. C., as
Second-Class Matter.

Carl Goerch is doing a fine job as radio reporter of the doings of the legislature.

Cam Morrison's friends and enemies together got him into a rather embarrassing position, but he seems to have issued from it with credit.

Messrs. McDonald and Lumpkin are making a gallant fight for their substitute for the sales tax, but the odds seem greatly against them.

The illness of 94-year old Oliver Wendell Holmes probably means the end of a most useful and honorable career. As a justice of the supreme court his record was most admirable.

Eight years ago to-night the biggest snow central North Carolina probably saw within a half-century fell. The writer had never seen a snow of half the depth of that March 2 one of 1927.

March seems to have come in rather lamblike. But if the March lamb is no better prophet than the February groundhog, perhaps we shall not see the March lion at all. Mr. Groundhog was reversed both last year and this.

Dunn's former police chief is making quite a useful legislator. The Bladen Journal missed its mark when it labeled him as a joke. Mr. Page seems to hold the respect of the legislators to a large extent.

Two great groups of North Carolina people deserve consideration before any salaries of \$1,500 or more are increased—the poor tax-payers and the thousands of state employees who are getting too little to supply the necessities of life.

Give the Morganton asylum more money and conditions will doubtless quickly improve. It is hard to make brick without straw, but not so hard as to keep a building warm and tables supplied without money to buy coal and food.

It will be the legislators' own fault if they have to work a month or two for nothing. That is their concern, but all those thousands of dollars going to clerks, pages, etc., is a matter of state concern. Every day lost through lagging costs the state hundreds of dollars.

The increased acreage of tobacco seems to have been determined upon by the AAA with a view to doing justice to those former tobacco growers who did not receive a square deal last year. Editor W. C. Manning of the Williamston Enterprise deserves credit for his manly and outspoken championship of the underdog tobacco grower.

The President hardly realizes that relief jobs at \$50 a month would be considered a bonanza by tens of thousands of laborers. Areas in North Carolina as large as a New England state have scarcely a union employee in them. In such areas farm labor at a dollar a day is considered high wages.

Senator Reynolds seems to have realized that his vote against the Roosevelt plan to make relief work wages \$50 a month instead of on a par with prevailing union wages in each community has more ill consequences than he formerly dreamed of. The increased cost would be sufficient to almost pay the bonus, for instance, that the senator is anxious to have paid.

It should take only a few minutes to dispose of the Hill bill if the Senator wants a quiet consideration of it. Doubtless every senator is ready to vote on it at the first opportunity. But a motion to table would be the easiest route. It seems to be doomed, and the sooner it is killed and buried, the sooner the general assembly can proceed with its real business.

An increase in the prison population of the state of over three hundred within the last few weeks is a woeful commentary upon moral conditions in North Carolina. 8,363 was reported February 28 as the total number in the prison department's care. Yet there are probably a thousand others in the state under restraint of city and town governments. Almost any price can be afforded to change conditions which result in such an expense of human and monetary values.

The School Series Ends— A Challenge.

I had no idea that I was in for such a long series of articles when I wrote the first one on the Problems of the Schools. For three issues I sought an end for them, but when I would sit down to the typewriter a rush of new ideas would come and force a stop before the completion of the discussion.

Thus they have been written. Not a note; no planning, but all of largely spontaneous composition. Under such circumstances, it would not be surprising if the continuity and coherency are somewhat faulty. On the other hand, it will be surprising to the reader to find the degree of those two qualities that does exist.

The determination to end the discussion this issue had two unfortunate results. It caused the article to be too long, and caused a failure to discuss the matter of vocational and health education in a worthy manner.

The article is long, but the most important of the series. In fact, I doubt if I have ever written an article dealing with more important subject matter. You are challenged to read at least the matter on the first page of the paper. You will agree heartily or disagree with equal ardor.

The strength of this discussion is greatly increased by the supplementary article furnished by Attorney Chas. G. Rose, former president of the North Carolina Bar Association. The two articles supplement each other as perfectly as if the two writers had collaborated upon them. It is the loss of the subscriber who fails to read the dual discussion of moral education.

The reception of the series has been gratifying. Though the articles have been long, some have read them in full, and it is they who are most appreciative. As I stated in the first article, I am no school administrator but a teacher, and from the teacher's standpoint the articles have been written.

"Educational Articles Should Be Published In Book Form."

The following letter from Col. Terry Lyon of Fayetteville, among numerous other written and oral commendations, is much appreciated and is printed here as an indication of the appreciation with which the school articles have been received by many intelligent readers. Col. Lyon writes as follows:

"Dear Mr. Peterson:

"I wish a way could be found whereby your articles on "Education" could be published in book form and this book placed in the hands of every teacher in North Carolina.

"I have read those articles with interest and with an abiding conviction that you know whereof you speak.

Your friend,

TERRY A. LYON.

Fayetteville, February 18, 1935.

Where Bigger Pay Is Needed.

Those Morganton nurses seem to have picked an envoy extraordinary to plead their case before the general assembly. Miss Davis has done a service to the whole state in turning the minds of the people and of the legislators to the need of greater support for the state's humbler employees. Miss Davis's irruption came just when an agitation had started to increase the salaries of solicitors, for instance. It is passing strange how sympathetic legislatures can become over the cutting of pay for men who get thousands of dollars for comparatively light and pleasant tasks while they can be so unmindful of the state's servants who work long hours for a minimum of pay. It will be an outright shame for the legislature to raise the salary of any man or woman now getting as much as \$2,000 a year before a decent living wage is provided for the thousands of men and women who would feel happy to receive compensations to match some of the increases in salaries proposed for department heads, solicitors, professors, etc.

An Unusual War Record.

The editor would here express a word of sympathy for Mr. and Mrs. Marshall Williams in the death of the second of their gallant sons. Four years ago Commander Louis Hicks Williams, who served gallantly in the World War, passed. A few days ago Major Marshall Williams, Jr., also closed his career. It was remarkable that three of the Williams sons should rise to rank in the war and all without having previously studied at military schools. The third is Captain Rowland Williams of Dunn. A fourth son, Virginius, was a gunman in the navy but did not see service abroad. I doubt if the family's war record can be surpassed in the state.

A Gratifying Showing.

Commissioner A. L. Fletcher of the Department of Labor should feel gratified at the results achieved by his department within two years. The first inspection of factories under his jurisdiction resulted in the discovery of 2,154 violations of safety and sanitary and other laws and regulations. The second inspection discovered only 1,110 such violations, and the corrections had been secured with scarcely any litigation. Another inspection is now in progress and the indications are that the total number of violations of safety and sanitary regulations, from such a thing as a wet or slippery floor up, will reach no greater number than 600. Commissioner Fletcher reports that there is virtually no attempt or disposition to violate the child labor regulations of the codes.

"Just Another Law."

The drivers' license law, if duly administered, is likely to cut deeply into the gasoline tax fund. A family car that is usually driven by any of several members of the family will probably be driven less when each member has to pay a license fee. But with 10,000 regular drivers of cars how is any enforcement to be secured? Probably the number of people who occasionally drive cars reaches 25,000, instead of just 10,000. It looks like just "another law"—an aggravation and an expense to the people who try to abide by the laws and a further opportunity to educate more law-violators. The license law will actually be harder to enforce completely than the prohibition law. Certainly every liquor car can get by as easily with an unlicensed driver as with its load of liquor. And so with all other cars.

It does seem that as much wood as there is in Burke county and as many people as have been supported at public expense, enough wood could have been cut and hauled to the asylum in Morganton to keep the building warm if cash could not be secured to buy sufficient coal.

How to Get Rid of the Gold Problem.

The value of gold is largely a fictional value due to its use as money. If the bondholders of the nations insist upon payment in gold, the nations might solve two problems by demonetizing gold and letting the bondholders have it. It wouldn't be very long before they would be willing to take a dollar based upon commodity values for the weight of an old dollar in gold. The world does not have to use gold as money. The arts and crafts do not demand at par value anything like the amount of gold in existence. Accordingly, gold might be expected to follow the suit of silver when it was so generally demonetized.

New York's Mayor Gets Results

Faced with Mayor LaGuardia's determination to give the city cheaper power, even if it meant the construction of city-owned plants, the Consolidated Gas system of New York now offers to the federal and city governments a schedule of electric rates so radically cut that municipal plants could hardly hope to compete. With slashes in some cases of 40 per cent, an average of 25, the clever rate reductions would chop something like \$150,000 a year off federal light and power bills, \$2,500,000 off city bills. The action of Consolidated Gas presents the possibility of a new kind of "yardstick." Whereas the original federal government concept was to show how cheaply power could be produced and distributed and thus force private companies into line, it now seems possible to impress private systems with the advantage of making their own yardsticks in their own yards, before the government arrives on the scene.—Christian Science Monitor.

BLIND TOM

(Continued from Page Three)

After a long career, Blind Tom died in Hoboken, June 13, 1908. Scientists have been altogether unsuccessful in providing explanation for Blind Tom. He was a freak of nature, like Siamese twins and two-headed calves.

Henry Watterson, one-time noted editor of the Louisville Courier-Journal, ended a tribute to Blind Tom in these words:

"What was he? Whence came he? Was he the Prince of the fairy tale held by the wicked Enchantress; nor any beauty—not even the Heaven-born Maid of Melody—to release him? Blind, deformed, and black—as black even as Erebus—idiocy, the idiocy of perpetual frenzy, the sole companion of his waking visions and his dreams—whence came he what was he, and wherefore?"—The Ambassador.