

## The Budget Commission Offered a Sane Scheme.

Nobody in the State's service has starved the past two years nor had to call upon relief funds for aid, or at least I have not heard of any such happening. Tens of thousands of those who have for many years been paying the taxes to support State employees were not so fortunate. Yet the increase in the cost of living had necessitated greater pay for State employees, or at least for that group which was receiving the lower scales of remuneration. The budget commission, studying the situation—the sources of funds and the needs of employees, also the comparative well-being of employees and the average-run of citizens, suggested a reasonable increase in wages, salaries, and appropriations for the State's other expenses. The budget commission readily and fairly, with the exception of the elimination of exceptions under the sales tax levy, suggested the sources from which the funds might be derived.

For nearly three months the General Assembly has labored upon finance and appropriation bills, and seem now to be back at the starting place. The body might have been at home and the State aware of the tax conditions under which it is to live if the limitation of appropriations set by the budget commission had been respected.

The house appropriations committee, with the senate committee in accord, opened the gate for a few millions of extra appropriations and the mischief is done. Men who can barely provide a ration of bread and meat for their families are to be taxed five or six percent upon the small purchases they can make in order to give men who are getting three times the average income of the people of the State increases in incomes greater than the total income of tens of thousands—and some of the latter state-employed at that.

If the pincers must pinch somebody, why not they pinch the state-employed as well as the tens of thousands who have not one day's security? Men who cannot see whence their bread is to come day after tomorrow are to be taxed five or six percent upon that bread, if they are so fortunate as to get it, and then to soften the living of those who have a living wage assured them for months or years.

Let the General Assembly get back to the budget commission's suggested appropriations, eliminate the tax on the staple food products, provide for the deficit thereby created and go on home.

### Conscience Quickened In The Senate.

Political dishonesty had put the bills proposing repeal of the absentee ballot laws to sleep. But on Tuesday the consciences of some of the members of the senate seemed to be aroused so strongly that a general awakening appeared likely.

It is also beginning to appear that some legislators are aware that political strategy, as well as honesty, is on the side of honest elections. It is evident, or should be, that the people of the several counties will not always consent for a few manipulators to determine the event of an election. And when the people do decide to put such a practice out of business the manipulators themselves will go along with the devilish practice.

The courage of Representative Pickens is not to be doubted.—Who's braver than a public official who dares to suggest repealing the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence?

### Demoralization of the State Proceeding at Fearful Rate.

The speed at which the State is heading into complete demoralization is lamentable. Everybody concedes that the prevalence of drinking is disastrous; too many fail to see that the multitude going to ruin, and ruining others is composed of individuals. It is utterly ruinous, even the various varieties of "wets", think for the multitude to drink like a school of mullets, yet every sot and soon-to-be sot feels that he has a perfect right to drink as often and as much as he pleases.

Contemplate women who should by heritage have been decent matrons dying drunken sots! Within a few days at one resort two women who should be now decent matrons of decent homes died after liquor drinking parties! In every town in the rural areas, women are throwing themselves away. A host of children are growing up who have little hope of ever knowing what a moral and decent home is.

The people are losing their sense of morals and decency. Lack of a conscience quickened by wholesome moral influences is the prime cause. Liquor in the hands of people without a strong moral sense is the agency of ruin.

Any man who takes an occasional drink is in danger of ultimate drunkenness. Such a man has put himself into the way of voluntarily laying aside his sanity. And the insanity induced by drink, is, if anything, more filthy and more cruel than that wrought by many other agencies. Husbands when drunk treat their wives worse than the ordinary occupant of Dix Hill would treat any one in the course of years of insanity. No idiot can be nastier than the drunkard, voluntarily insane for the time being.

Yet the whole reason for the failure of prohibition is the determination of the average North Carolina man not to give up the liberty of making a beast of himself. He cannot reasonably say he claims the liberty to drink moderately when if he has any sense at all he knows that the odds are against the man or woman who has reached that stage where he cares about retaining the privilege of drinking. The stuff already has its hold upon him, though he may not admit it, when he cares if it goes.

If that is not true, North Carolina can avoid the fast approaching demoralization. It must be true or North Carolina would have added ere this that little touch to the Turlington Act which would dry North Carolina like a sirocco drinks up the morning dew.

Did you note that Barney Baruch the other day said that if it had been against the law to buy liquor he would not have bought any bootleg liquor. But it was only against the law to sell it; he bought it.

Here is your remedy. But I fear the men and women of North Carolina have too nearly lost their stamina and by too many thousands become subjects of King Alcohol to dare to take the step that will make North Carolina's prohibition law a real prohibition law.

Simply make it a crime to buy or possess liquor in North Carolina with the exception of that identified as from legalized medicinal dispensaries with a steep fine or imprisonment statutorily fixed, and you have the statute that will make it possible to enforce the North Carolina prohibition law.

In all these months of talk about the evils of liquor, little has been said with regard to eliminating those evils. The Hill bill would only provide second source of supply, and further respectabilize the insidious evil.

I here challenge the dries in the

General Assembly and the wets who profess to deplore the havoc being wrought by alcoholic liquors to pass a law embracing those few words, or to shut up and let the State go to the devil as far as they are concerned.

### Page's Plan Not At All a Bad One.

It appears at this writing on Wednesday that Representative Peterson will secure the passage of his bill to substitute a lethal gas chamber of the electric chair; also that Representative U. S. Page stands a chance to secure the desired publicity for executions. Mr. Page suggests that the gas chamber be built on a truck and conveyed from county-seat to county-seat as turns come for the execution of criminals of the various counties. Mr. Page and others desire the cut-throat crews running about over the State to know that death is on the road for them, and all candidates for execution to fully realize that the man or woman who is put in that box doesn't come out alive.

Murder has been more public in North Carolina than its penalty. Page and others desire to change that situation.

The present legislature has shown little disposition to sentimentalize over the fate of the bunch of hellions who are carrying death over the State as if its people were mad-dogs. Let the legislature adopt the lethal gas chamber, send it over the State to put the devilish killers out of business in the shortest possible order, and with no lack of publicity for death chariot or the execution itself.

It is time for the potential killers to know that death is sure, prompt, and a matter of ordinary note if the stream of pitiless murderers continues. Let the criminals, and the potential criminals, in North Carolina know that the State is fully ready to kill the murderers and rapists as fast and as promptly as the miller grinds the grist that comes to his mill.

### There Is No Such Animal as War Profits.

It has been definitely demonstrated that a nation cannot make a profit out of war trade. Individuals can make profits, but it is their own fellow citizens who must ultimately pay them. Congress need have no fears that this country would lose anything if trade with warring nations were eliminated. Only nations which have favorable trade balances can pay debts and no warring nations are likely to have, either at the time or in a reasonable distant future, any such favorable trade balance. Necessarily, then, the war profit hogs merely fatten upon their own fellow citizens. When the world sees and remembers that the only way to pay for goods is with goods or services, war profits will be seen in their true colors. The billions that the war profit hogs "made" during the World War haven't come back home yet, nor have goods been returned for those received by the warring nations. If President Wilson and other statesmen of his day had understood the elementary principles of international trade and trade balances, we should not have been drawn into the war. All that would have been necessary to do in order to prevent German attacks upon our shipping was to keep the shipping at home.

We actually cut our own rations when we had abundance and yet find the nation poorer to-day than it was when we risked a war rather than be deprived of the right to sell to Germany's enemies.

The abc's of economics are yet to be learned by the rulers and big business men of the world.

## HUNTER BETHUNE GETS THE FOXES

Bunnlevel, Harnett county, boasts the champion fox hunter of North Carolina—Hunter Bethune. During the past winter Mr. Bethune, who is a prominent merchant and tourist camp operator, trailed and brought in 58 foxes. And his total would have reached 80, that is, if the 24 foxes that eluded his hounds during the season had been counted.

The Bunnlevel fox hunter is a man after the late Governor Charles B. Aycock's own heart. Governor Aycock used to say, that when out campaigning in the rural sections of the State, he never worried about a place to pass the night, so long as there was a man in the community in which he happened to be campaigning who owned a pack of hounds.

"I always drive along until I come to a house where there is a pack of hounds playing around," the late Governor was fond of relating, "when I get to such a house my travels for the night are at an end, for I know that a man who will feed a pack of hounds is hospitable enough to welcome into his home the stranger at his gate."

Mr. Bethune owns 27 hounds each of which he can call by name. Five of them he bought from his friend, Albert Rockefeller of New York and Overhills, with whom he hunts foxes each winter. Two of his hounds came from the kennels of George Moore, famous western North Carolina fancier, whose hounds won the cup eight years in succession in the national field test.

The names of Mr. Bethune's hounds are: Ace, Jack, London, Wheeler and Sue, whom he bought as puppies from Mr. Rockefeller; Beauty and Scott, who came from the Moore kennels; and Patsy, Wilson, Brown, Gray, Red, Hill, Spot, Abbie, Frisk, Rattler, Kate, Drum, Black, Flinder Heel, Sallie, Sam, Loud, Snow Ball, and Veenie.

Everyone of the hounds have been vaccinated. Mr. Rockefeller pronounces the pack the best-all-round he has ever seen.

Usually accompanying Mr. Bethune on the chase, are Mr. Rockefeller, A. A. and Frank Byrd.

Mr. Bethune participated in the last chase of the season last Wednesday at Overhills, when two foxes were trailed and caught.

### Strange But True

This story may seem strange to you, nevertheless, it is absolutely true. Even the immediate family of the gentleman will testify to its accuracy.

Captain I. M. Reams, has lived in Dunn for 28 years. He is a popular passenger conductor on the Durham and Southern Railroad, running between Dunn and Durham, but according to Agent J. W. Davis, of that line, does little traveling or walking other than down the aisles of his train's coaches and from his home on Sundays to the Baptist church. Be it said of Captain Reams, he is a staunch believer in the Baptist faith and the old time River Jordan doctrine.

But last Saturday Mr. Davis persuaded "der captain" to take a stroll down town with him. He did. Passing the Dunn post office he inquired of Mr. Davis what that building was. Upon being informed, Captain Reams strolled in, gazed about him and said: "Well, J. W., I've lived in Dunn 28 years and this is the first time I was ever in the post office."

### A SONG IN SPRING

O little buds all burgeoning with Spring,  
You hold my winter in forgetfulness;  
Without my windows lilac branches swing,  
Within my gate I hear a robin sing—  
O little laughing blooms that lift and bless!  
So blow the breezes in a soft caress,  
Blowing my dreams upon a swallow's wing;  
O little merry buds in dappled dress,  
You fill my heart with very wantonness—  
O little buds all burgeoning with Spring!

—Thomas S. Jones, Jr.