Roanoke-Chowan Times.

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Mother

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Pass Along "Good Cheer."

Catch and radiate the sunshine,
Pass along the word of cheer,
Give a tender smile or token
To the sad ones far and near.
Gather up each passing sunbeam
And reflect it far and wide,
Sending forth its rays the brightest
Where the darkest shadows hide

To the weary, heavy laden,
Walking lonely down the road,
Lend a hand to help them onward;
It will lift a heavy load.
To the aged and the careworn,
Grown so weary of the way,
You can be a very sunbeam,
Bringing light and joy to-day

Not alone in crowded alleys
Do we find the sorest need;
There is sorrow in the palace,
There are hearts that break and bleed.
Scatter sunshine, brother, sister,
Sympathize with smile or tear;
Make this whole wide world the brighter
For your tender words of cheer.
—Magazine of Mysteries.

IMPROVING THE ROADS.

Approves Suggestions Made Last Week—More Work and Less Supervision Needed.

(For the TIMES.)

I am glad you have opened your columns to a discussion of the road question. Now that our people have been taxed to put the roads in good condition they will not be satisfied unless the roads are improved very much

We all know that the roads have received but very little attention during the past ten or twenty years. Had the overseers done their duty as the law required there would have been no necessity for a change in the road law, and it would not have been made. Instead of working the roads six days in every year the work actually done did not amount to one day in the year on an average. And then many of the overseers by the work done showed that they knew absolutely nothing about road building. We must have competent men to superintend the work if we have to employ a practical road builder to come here and teach our overseers how to build roads. Some of our present overseers will actually have holes dug side of the road for water to stand in and breed mosquitoes and malaria in order to get dirt to fill a hole—robbing Peter to pay Paul. Better leave the holes in the road than have one side of the road full of standing water most of the summer. If the mud hole is in the road it will be kept constantly stirred and do less damage than the still water on the side of the road.

In my opinion drainage is of first importance, and for that reason I approve of the suggestions of Mr. Dilday in your last issue that we do not need to purchase much machinery at first.

Now a word as to supervision. That is where the Road Commission will have its greatest difficulty. A few years ago when we experimented with working the roads by taxation we had all supervision and no work. We fear that the present Road Commission in trying to profit by the mistakes of the Commissioners in the first experiment will go to the other extreme and attempt to have all work and no supervision, which would result in failure. We must have competent persons—real live men—to superintend the work. The man who loafs all summer waiting for something to turn up is not the man to give employment on the public roads. If the county is divided into sections as suggested last week and each section put in charge of one man similar to the railroad plan, that man should furnish satisfactory evidence of his fitness and knowledge of road building. In case of doubt he should be examined as to his qualifications.

L. W. PARKER.

THE DEATH PENALTY.

A little thing sometimes results in death. Thus a mere scratch, insignificant cuts or puny boils have paid the death penalty. It is wise to have Bucklen's Arnica Salve ever handy Its the best salve on earth and will positively heal wounds, when burns, sores, ulcers and piles threaten. Only 25c at Rich Square Drug Co., Rich Square; J. L. Outland, Woodland; M. H. Futrell Conway; T. H. Nicholson Murfreesboro

FARMER'S PROBLEM.

Scarcity of Farm Labor Felt All Over the Country--Will the Tide Turn Back?

A down-East paper sends out a most pitiful complaint about the lack of farm hands in that section. It says that a good many af the farms which were a few years ago devoted to gardening have been seeded down, because the owners cannot get reliable help to carry them on. The further statement is made that when it is possible to hire men, they are no longer of the good faithful kind we used to have on the farm but rather of the "yellow dog" variety. Altogether, this paper regards the situation as serious.

It is a little singular that this paper only gives voice to the cry which is going up all over the country. In the East and the West the same dearth of farm help exists. Farmers everywhere are crippled in their farm operations by reason of a lack of help. Thousands of farmers all over the country are staggering along under loads of work they would be glad to share with good honest employees, and wondering how they can stand up under the load much longer.

The reason for this lack of hired labor is not difficult to explain There have been unprecedented booms in manufacturing plants for the past few years, wages have been high, and in all lines of skilled labor the demand for men has been great. The trolley lines have been reaching out into the country more and more, making it easier for men and women to get into the great manufacturing centers. But more surprising than all is the evident feeling on the part of many that a man is more of a man when working in town at some kind of mechanical labor than he is in the country tilling the soil.

A striking form of the labor problem as affecting the farmer is the reported combination of farm hands in the West to control not only the supply but also the wages. Almost every man who has formerly been available at seasons of crisis, such as haying and harvesting has been drawn into these great combinations, so that it is practically impossible to hire a man who does not belong to the trust. In every instance the wages demanded are considerably in excess of those paid in the past. It is held by those who have been working the unions up, that the price heretofore paid for this class of labor has been too low, and that this movement upward is only for the purpose of leveling wages up.

Still another remarkable development along this line is the creation of bureaus which supply farm help. These act as middlemen between the employer and the employed. One such firm last year furnished something like 20,000 hands to the wheat growers of the West. In a way this is a valuable service to the farmer; it takes out of his hands the work of procuring labor, but makes it easier for him to secure the help needed.

It is a question what will be the outcome of this drift of labor away from the country. Are we to come to a time when we can not procure hired help; or if we can, are we to be compelled to pay so much for it that we can not afford to carry on our farms as extensive as in the past? Many farmers report now that they are compelled to draw in their ventures. They are doing what they can themselves, with the help of the boys of the family, and let the rest go. Machinery is being used more and more to take the place of the laborer. These men find that they cannot make a living and pay the wages demanded.

Two things are likely to result from the present state of affairs: First, more and more the Old World will send its unemployed to us. We will take them, with all their ignorance of our methods, and educate them to be good farmers. These hands will do our work not as well at first and yet at living rates, both for themselves and for us. Second, we may be compelled for a time to increase the price of our farm products to a point which will enable us to pay the higher wages sought by the laboring men and still make a living ourselves. At this point the problem becomes more and more complex. How will this affect the poor men of the cities? Can those who are now leaving the farms for the shops of the cities pay the rents asked and the higher prices for household supplies and have any thing left? Will they not turn around and demand of their employers still higher wages? So the chain of difficulties seems likely to reach on and on indefinitely.

In the meantime it remains a fact that the country is the best place in the world for the man who is compelled to labor with his hands. The slightly better wages paid in the factories may for a time allure him so that he may be willing to turn his back upon the farm; but let a few years go by, bringing the day when he can no longer work in the shops as he once did, and awakening him to the startling fact that he has saved little or nothing for the rainy day, and it is inevitable that he should cast his eyes back to the country with intense longing, and the regret that he did not stay where he could gain a home of his own and be a man among men.

It is right and best that we should every one of us seek the place in life where we can do the best for ourselves and to our families. Not to do this would subject us to severe criticism. The only question is, will we be better off to leave the country and go away to work in the cities? This question every man who labors with his hands for a living must answer for himself. In doing this, pride ought to step aside. It is just as honorable and just as manly to work on the farm as anywhere in the world.

Unless all indications fail, there will in the near future be a tide setting back toward the country. Booms in manufacturing burst and take along with them many men who have depended upon them. The country will become the home once more of a great army of men now having hard work to get along in town. This will relieve the pressure on the farmers and so the problem on the hired man will be solved.

It is a poor time to make hay when the skies are cloudy or the rain is coming down in sheets. Then about all we can do is to sit in the house and wait till the storm passes by. Such times come to every farmer, and he has learned to look ahead and make his plans for the rainy day he knows is surely coming.

Rainy days come in business matters as well as on the farm. The tide of affairs comes in and goes out just as surely as the tide of the ocean ebbs and flows We may look back over the story of this or any other country and we will find that periods of depression and seasons of prosperity have succeeded each other at intervals more or less regular. We can not calculate on any very great length of time when the sweep of prosperity will be in our favor.

As farmers we sometimes think we are exceptions to this rule. It does not seem to us that things change with us as they do with the merchants or the manufacturers. We go on our way year after year after about the same sort, no matter what may be the case with anyone else. That is one reason why when the sun does not go under the cloud and the storm-clouds of disaster do overtake us we are in such sore distress.

But do we not all know that the only way safely to meet the stress of financial storm is to have laid by in the days when the world did smile on us a little reserve on which we can now rely? The farmer who has such a nest-egg is the one who may laugh at the hard times. But how few, comparatively speaking, do have such a store laid by for the day trouble. If we get good prices for our butter, our eggs and our wool we are inclined to spend more and forget to save any of our surplus earnings against the time of trouble.—Farm Journal.

PUT AN END TO IT ALL

A grievous wail oftimes comes as a result of unbearable pain from over taxed organs, dizziness, backache, liver complaint and constipation. But thanks to Dr. King's New Life Pills they put an end to it all. They are gentle but thorough. Try them Only 25c. Guaranteed by Rich Square Drug Co., Rich Square; J. L Outland, Woodland, M. H. Futrell Conway; T. H. Nicholson Murfreesboro.

Lawyers and Editors.

(News and Observer)

Suppose the liquor dealers should meet and decide to pay some editor to give him the use of his columns for presenting their opposition to closing up the shops where drunkards are made, and suppose an editor would agree for a specific sum to advocate their cause and conduct their campaign. The editor would be on the same footing as the lawyer who would accept money to manage their campaign. Wherein lies the difference, if there is any? Nobody would respect an editor who would thus sell his columns. Is the lawyer who for pay runs their campaign any better than the editor who would sell his columns?

This is a question that deeply concerns the legal profession and the whole community. The profession of law is an honorable one. It has always had the respect of the people because it has deserved it. Latterly—for the truth ought to be told—too many lawyers have for money lobbied Legislatures, Town Councils, County Commissioners; they have sought to unduly control jurymen or pack juries; have accepted pay for promoting political or personal booms; and have for money conducted campaigns for saloons in prohibition or dispensary fights. Compared with the whole number of the legal profession, these have been few in number. Some of them have, without reflection, become guilty of this unprofessional conduct. The result has been that their course has injured the legal profession. It does not stand as high in popular approval as it did in 1890, let us say. It is wrong that the majority of the profession should suffer for the sins of the minority, but the public do not discriminate as they should, and may not be expected to do so perfectly when men guilty of gross and notorious unprofessional conduct are not disbarred or even called to account

Two Undeveloped Resources.

The South is a land of vast and varied resources In her bosom lie untold treasurers and possibilities. What she can and may become no pen can describe, no prophet can foresee.

Some of her capacities are fully developed. Her capacity for beer and whiskey consumption needs no further development. Neither does her capacity for gambling in cotton and other futures need any further development. She has also produced an abundant crop of second and third rate politicians. These and some other lines of production are rather overdone than underdone.

Some other lines, such as railroad building, factory building and town building are growing perhaps with sufficient rapidity. they do not call for special encouragement.

But when we come to consider her agricultural resources we find a practically unlimited field for growth and culture. While much has been done, much remains still to be done.

We desire in this article to call special attention to two undeveloped resources in her agriculture.

THE PRODUCTIVE POWER OF AN ACRE OF LAND.

Statistics show that in our leading crops we produce about six bushels of wheat, ten bushels of corn, and about one hundred and eighty pounds of cotton per acre.

Statistics equally reliable show that we have produced over sixty bushels of wheat, over one hundred and twenty-five bushels of corn and over two thousand pounds of lint cotton per acre.

As yet no one claims that these figures represent the highest possibilities of an acre of either of these crops.

Better culture would produce even a better yield than this.

But as these are about twelve times the average they should make us stop and think. Are we producing only one tenth of what we ought to produce on an acre? About one tenth of what our neighbors have produced? About one tenth of what we can produce?

Can we make as much on one acre as we are now making on ten? If we can do it, how can it be done, and why are we not doing it?

If we cannot reach ten times as much, can we not get somewhere in that direction? At least, is it not worth while to try?

But we are not confined to the few crops mentioned above.

DIVERSIFY.

We should try to develop the undeveloped productive power of some of our acres in fruits, vegetables and forage crops. An acre in cucumbers often produces five hundred dollars worth. In strawberries $300 to $400, in onions $300 to $600, in blackberries, raspberries, dewberries, cherries, plums, peaches, pears, cabbage, lettuce, beans, tomatoes and numerous other crops, $300 to $500 is not an unusual yield for an acre.

Why not try to develop some of your resources in some of these directions?

THE FARMER.

So far we have spoken of the undeveloped resources of the farm Before closing we desire to call attention to the undeveloped resources of the farmer.

Many of us are too narrow, we have not broadened out as we should have done. We are the creatures of habit, rather than of thought. Our labor is of the hand rather than of the head. We work with our muscles, rather than with our brains.

We need to develop ourselves. We need to give more of our time to reading and studying about the nature and habits of the plants we try to grow.

We should familiarize ourselves with the composition of our soils as to plant food, and the wants and needs of planting in the way of plant food and plant feeding We need to understand what is necessary for the production of a perfect plant and how to furnish it.

We do not need more brains but more culture for the brains we have.

We need fully developed Farmers, that we may surround ourselves with fully developed farms There is more in the man than there is in the land. To a very important extent the man either makes or unmakes the land.—Southern Cultivator.

Paying Cash.

It would be a good thing if the families of a neighborhood would band together, pledging themselves to buy nothing on credit; to pay cash for every purchase, no matter how their "credit" stood, thus literally living within their means. Pecuniary indebtedness for current living is not desirable, and, although voluntary indebtedness is well-nigh universal, it is yet one of the greatest evils extant. Very few people really have to go in debt for necessities. It is the purchase of the unnecessary which calls for credit. One's necessities are really very few, when closely pinned down, if every one would make up his or her mind to buy nothing without paying for it on the instant; it is really wonderful to what a small compass their wants would shrink. If everybody would adopt the cash system, there would be little cry of "hard times," for every one, knowing the exact state of the individual finances, would goven the purchase accordingly and the necessary would take precedence over the mere fancy. The credit system is responsible for an immense amount of unhappiness, loss and ill-feeling between friends. The good the system may do is greatly overbalanced by the evil it has done, is doing and will continue to do so long as it is allowed.—Ex.

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NOTICE.

Notice is hereby given that application will be made to the Road Commission of Northampton Countyat its next meeting to make the public way leading from White Oak school house to a point on the road leading from Pinnie's church to Lasker a public road, the same being in Rich Square township.

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