

The Beaufort News

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THE NEW TRAFFIC LAW

The Greensboro News calls attention to the fact that the General Assembly, at its recent session, passed an act making it unlawful to sound an automobile horn unnecessarily, wantonly and maliciously so to speak. It is a great comfort to know that the law was passed, it will be a still greater comfort if the officers will enforce it. If we mistake not this law contained several other features too which the officers would do well to inform themselves of. The one requiring all vehicles to carry lights at night when on the streets and highways seems to be a good one. Cars are often seen in Beaufort, as well as elsewhere with no tail lights. Another practice, not at all uncommon here, is for children to drive cars. The automobile is one of the most useful inventions that man has ever devised; it is also a death dealing instrument in the hands of the careless, the reckless and the unscrupulous.

PRIVATE THRIFT PAYS PUBLIC DEFICITS

Socialists say that the government ought to own and operate all public utilities like railroads, telegraph and telephone lines and many others. The administration of the railroads in the United States during and after the war by the Federal Government ought to have been lesson enough and doubtless was for most of us. If any further information about governmental control is needed though it can be found in Canada. There are two trans-continental railroads in Canada, one owned by the government and the other by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company. They are competitors with each other and both are supposed to be trying to make money. The results which they achieve are widely apart. The Canadian Pacific pays regular dividends to its stockholders. This road is also the largest taxpayer in Canada. The government owned railroad has a deficit every year which must come out of the taxpayers and of course it pays no taxes itself. From this it appears that private ownership is better for the people than public ownership in so far as railroads are concerned.

MANY COMPLAINTS TO BE HEARD

The State Equalization Board will have a meeting shortly at which it will hear complaints from those who do not like the way the school funds have been distributed. If everybody who has been kicking about the distribution should attend this meeting it will be necessary probably to meet in a large auditorium. Rarely have we ever known any public measure that has attracted as much criticism as this one has done. Of course dividing up money is always a ticklish job. This is noticeable in the case of wills. Each fellow thinks he ought to have got a little more than he did get. And so it is about this school money. Of course a few counties got large sums, more than they expected probably, and so they will keep quiet. Maybe the board understands how it arrived at its decisions but the public does not. All the public knows is that some counties got a great deal of the money, some got pretty fair amounts and others got very little. Hence these complaints. What the State ought to do is to adopt a uniform tax rate for the whole State and pay whatever it costs to run the public schools no matter whether they are located in Carteret or Cherokee, or some other county.

A BIG RESPONSIBILITY

No doubt our board of city commissioners will give careful consideration to the proposition which has been made them looking to a sale of the city's water and light plant and the granting of a franchise to a corporation to operate the plant. The matter is important right now and its potential importance is still greater.

Like all questions this light and water matter has two sides to it. It is true that municipal ownership of public utilities has been on the wane for some time. Comparatively few towns own their light and water plants now, particularly their light plants. Great corporations that are engaged in the business of producing and selling electricity have bought up about all of the municipal plants. Twenty five or thirty years ago nearly all such plants were owned by the towns. In fact that was the only way small towns could get electric plants and not many of them had water and sewerage systems. It is very different now. The big power companies give better service than the municipal plants usually give and at a less cost to the consumers as a rule.

Of course if a town can operate a plant prof-

itably, gives its citizens good service at reasonable rates and set aside a fund to replace its plant when it is worn out then there would seem to be no reason for selling out. However in figuring costs one must consider interest being paid on bonds and also take in consideration any tax yields that would be forthcoming from a corporation owned plant. Then too the quality of service furnished must be considered and the rates charged for service also. The matter should be looked at from every angle and a careful analysis made of the whole situation. The Board of Commissioners probably have at this time the biggest opportunity to serve their constituents that they will have during their entire terms of office. No doubt they appreciate the responsibility resting upon them and will meet the expectations of their fellow citizens.

GOVERNMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES

One hundred years ago, in fact at a later date than that, no taxes were levied in North Carolina for public education. Such schools as then existed were private enterprises; they were supported by the people who patronized them. Education was regarded as purely a personal matter and one that the State had little to do with. The idea of taxing people to maintain schools was regarded as the height of folly. Now millions are raised annually by taxation for school purposes and nobody expects the practice to be stopped.

One hundred years ago such things as county and state departments of health, of agriculture, of public welfare had not been dreamed of let alone put in practice. Now the State and the various counties spend large sums in aid of agriculture, health departments and public welfare. It may be that some counties have strained themselves too much in trying to maintain such agencies and it may be that considerable money has been wasted in maintaining them; it is likely enough that both of such criticisms are just. Admitting though that there is waste of money in the public school system and in the other departments it cannot be denied successfully that they do much good. The same is true of the millions invested in public roads. Some of the money invested in them has been wasted but despite that fact the roads are of great benefit.

The day of excessive individualism is waning, in fact it has passed forever. People rely more and more on the national, state, county and municipal governments to do things for them. The people must be provided with good roads, their children must be educated, their health must be looked after and the welfare of the unfortunate must have attention. These necessities must be provided by some governmental agency. It is too big a job for individuals. This thing of relying on the government to do things for us though can be carried too far. The question is where shall we draw the line?

Press Gleanings

Henry Ford, world's richest man, says he is eager to get back to work. Come to think of it, work seems to be a habit with most men who have won unusual success.—(Boston Transcript.)

Persian women now want to wear Western fashions. Persian men wouldn't object if they only knew.—(Cincinnati Enquirer.)

If any of the girls wearing ultra-fashionable heels make footprints in the sands of time, the scientists of future generations are likely to find them and cry: "Lo, here is where the ancients drilled for oil."—(Los Angeles Times.)

American troops have been ordered to the Peking war areas, where they get a grandstand view of how a country without military preparedness settles its troubles.—(Indianapolis News.)

Two of James Madison's great services to his countrymen were writing the first ten amendments to the Constitution and introducing long pants.—(Ohio State Journal.)

REDS IN PHILIPPINES

The latest Red outbreak has been in the Philippines where secret service agents of the United States government have discovered evidence of a wide-spread plot to cripple American naval activities in the islands. Chinese nationalists, for whom our pacifistic ideals have made numerous noisy pleas, have been working with Filipino agitators throughout the islands, planning to strike the first blow through destruction of the naval arsenal at Cavite, to prevent shipment of American arms to China for defense of American workers and missionaries in the Orient. It is well that secret service agents should be keeping a close watch on the communists and other radicals in the Philippines—and elsewhere.—(Fort Wayne News-Sentinel.)

HOME BUYING

Secretary Hoover of the Department of Commerce in a recent address, remarked that he was in favor of the local buying of local products. He argued that money is wasted in shipping charges when people send away a long distance for products created elsewhere when they could buy articles made near home equally well.

If it pays to buy products manufactured in our home localities, it would seem to be a good policy also to buy products distributed through local agencies, that is through our home stores. When you buy stuff sold through the stores of Newark where distribution costs are reasonable, you avoid the expense of going and sending elsewhere, and distribution costs are higher in the large cities, owing to high living costs there.—(Newark Advocate.)

Letters From Our Readers

THE BOND ELECTION.

Editor of The News:
The article of the Drs. in the News shows up very beautiful but Mr. tax payer how does it look down in the bottom of your pocket and nothing there to pay the burdensome taxes that are already upon us?

We all readily admit that such an institution would be a fine thing, for the county, but it would be like buying an automobile, as soon as you get it the expense begins and that would be the case with a county hospital. The trouble today is there are too many living out of the treasury of the county and more trying to get there. The county can send the poor who have no property nor money to a hospital for treatment for much less than they can build and equip a hospital. We should consider the poor forever and fishermen who toil from sun to sun and have to deny their families of many things they actually need to get money to pay their taxes. Don't listen to the silver-tongued orators with their flowery speeches and be misled but be sure to register and vote against any more bond issues.

Tax Payer
Newport, N. C.

THE HOSPITAL QUESTION.

Editor Beaufort News:

I want to say a little more about the hospital bond issue. It has been told that if you register and didn't vote it would not count against the bonds. I want every voter to register and then go to the polls and cast his vote solid against the bond issue. I understand that Dr. Royal has been offered \$10,000 to go to High Point and operate a hospital there and wants to sell out to the county for \$85,000, and I must think that the county will give him more to stay and operate this one for them. Now my dear readers I want to tell you all that I think it best if that is what the county wants us to all vote for they had just as well call in this election and keep the cost of it off the county.

My friends I went to Newport Saturday and worked hard and got every one that I saw to register and every one that I talked with said that they were going solid against it for they were tired of bonds in this county. Now my readers this has been told me, I think if our county commissioners keep on I think they will have to do like the Newport tax

Not All is Lost

by O. Lawrence Hawthorne

Is this defeat?
Is this a certain indication of my standing
with my fellow men?
Shall I retreat?
Shall I withdraw from all pursuit of place in
public life nor try again?
Is all for naught
This earnest, honest effort on my part to
benefit myself and them?
When I, who sought
An office, have employed but fair designs to
gain the goal, can they condemn?
Have I done well
In that no whit of self-respect or honor has
been sacrificed by me?
Does this foretell
Perpetual exclusion from the seats of govern-
ment as fate's decree?
Must my star wane
Nor ever cast the faintest glow among the
lesser lights, or is it true
That I may gain
By just such disappointments, and achieve a
greater prize than I pursue?



nayer said in his letter last week. They will have to build a larger county home to take care of the poor for if they keep putting more tax on there will be more poor folks than you ever saw before.

Now that is just my opinion my dear readers and every one that reads my letter if you haven't started to work against the bond issue start today and see that every body goes and registers and then go and vote against it solid. Don't depend on anything they say about your name counting against it if you don't vote, for that law has been changed. It is hard to keep up with their laws for they make a plenty laws but they carry out but few of them. Now I want Dr. C. N. Mason and Dr. George Davis and also Dr. J. J. Davis to get busy and let me hear from them. Don't let me have all to say and my friends that wants to say a word of consolation about this proposed bond issue don't hesitate to say it and let every body know who you are. If you are a tax payer don't be afraid of your

name. Now please let me hear from you all.
From your friend against any more bonds.

E. L. McCAIN,
Newport, N. C.
July 4th, 1927.

In Abyssinia, a telephone message must first be written and handed to the operator, who, in turn, shouts it into the transmitter, no one else being permitted to use the instrument.

Plans are being made to entertain between 500 and 700 club members at the annual short course to be held at State College, July 11 to 16.

Small gavels made from timbers taken from the White House were presented to the four club members from North Carolina who attended the National Club Encampment last week. The gavels are to be retained in the families of those who receive them.



Summer Bedroom FURNISHINGS

It will prove a real pleasure to outfit a bedroom in your home from the splendid showing of pieces to be found here.

Porch Swings

Time for Porch Swings— they add to the good looks of the other porch furniture, besides the comfort they afford—

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Save Food—with one of these Refrigerators—You save both food and ice—and the prices are made reasonable.

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