

### The Charlotte News

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WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1921.

BIBLE THOUGHT FOR THE DAY.  
All Needs Supplied.—The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord to ever.—Psalm 23: 1, 6.

THE PARDON OF DEBS.  
We don't know what moved Mr. Harding to pardon Debs, but we have our own notion about it.

It may be that the President was actuated by purely humanitarian impulses. He may have reasoned that if there was originally a reason for putting this arch-seditionist behind the bars, that reason has been removed by the cessation of hostilities and no good purpose can be served by keeping him in the penitentiary any longer.

He may have reasoned also,—we don't know,—that Debs ought never, in the first place, have been sent to prison. There are lots of people in this country who are opposed to the punishment of men merely because they hold views different from those commonly accepted. They contend that free speech is at the basis of American government and that the Constitution upon which this continent is founded recognizes the rights of a man to say and to believe anything that his whims and caprices may suggest.

Or it may be that the President thought the release of Debs at this time may result in a strategic political move for himself and his party. The Socialists have fallen out with the Democratic party because they accuse the leaders of that party, while in power, with the imprisonment of Debs and with other acts that held them in check. Mr. Harding may reason, therefore, that by giving this leading Socialist his freedom, the party may be so appeased that it will turn, in natural gratitude toward the Republican organization more effectively in coming elections than toward the Democratic.

However he may have argued to himself, certain it is that Mr. Harding has not followed a popular course in his performance toward Debs. The American Legion, which constitutes the rank and file of the soldiers of this nation who went to war, and there were some 4,000,000 of them, was bitterly opposed to the pardon. Joining in the request to the President that no amnesty be shown this man, were other organizations and thousands of Americans who were moved to make vocal their protests by their knowledge of the seditious activities of Debs and his coteries during the war and who feel that no man who hurled assassin's bullets at the backs of American soldiers ought to have amnesty shown him. And that is the popular sentiment in America today. No doubt about that. One can sense that fact from conversations on the streets; it is easily detected in the majority writings in the newspapers and anywhere that the issue is discussed, the preponderance of opinion leans heavily against extenuating the punishment inflicted upon Debs.

After all, however, there is some doubt if any act of attempted suppression of these things has the result which may be hoped for. Sometimes it is best to give the calf the rope and let it dangle it around its own neck until finally hanged. If you put a sufficient amount of powder in some compressed tube and set it off, the explosion is inevitable and the damage it works is in measurement with the amount of powder compressed within such limitations. The same amount of powder spread out on an even surface and set on fire would make merely a little blaze and smoke, and be consumed without the suggestion of a noise. And so it is with those who have the dynamite of sedition in their souls. If they the simply given an opportunity to spread themselves, they will not do much damage. To compress them and seek to hold them in check, out of public view and away from the crowds by imprisonment is to make inevitable ultimate explosion.

The country is in no danger of being overrun by the followers of Debs if they are simply allowed to run the gamut of their false teachings. There is too much native sense in America for it to become bolshevik.

### GOVERNOR BICKETT.

The State learns with intense regret of the sudden striking down of former Governor Bickett who has been overtaken in the midst of his years. Governor Bickett is held in uniformly high esteem by the people of his State. There have been other Governors who developed more striking leadership along some given lines, some with a finer profundity, but few who reached down closer to the common levels of his fellow-citizens and seemed to interpret for them their higher aspirations and larger ideals. He was the Governor of the common people of North Carolina and by them beloved, a man greatly gifted in speech and whose presence on the platform was always an inspiration. It is shocking to consider that his eminently good services for the State are done and that one who seem to be worth so much still to the commonwealth should be laid aside at his comparatively young age.

Governor Bickett came to be the chief executive of North Carolina by a strange coincidence. He was rewarded with the office because of the speech he made in the Charlotte convention in 1908 when he put in nomination for Governor the venerable Ashley Horne in the notable Kitchen-Craig-Horne contest and when the then young attorney made one of the most remarkable and dramatic public addresses ever heard in this State. Not only because of the merits of the man whose interests he was espousing, it was tacitly understood, not by any intrigue or secret diplomacy but by the processes of common consent, that at some strategic time the good services of Mr. Bickett on that occasion and in the campaign for Mr. Horne should have recognition at the hands of the people. It was the logic of circumstances, therefore, that after Governor Kitchen, the nominee of that convention should serve his term, then that Locke Craig, defeated by Kitchen, should have followed in the executive mansion, the other meritorious award should be passed out and the eloquent young lawyer who was the sensation of that memorable deadlocked convention be allowed to come into his own.

If there was ever any other single speech in his life that serves to crown the departed Governor's career as a public speaker, it was that delivered before the Southern Society of New York while he was Governor, a classic in its kind and one that was printed in pamphlet form and given nation-wide circulation. It was an address that has been rated as giving North Carolina the climax of the publicity it has deserved within the past decade and there is no possible manner of measurement that will take into full account the potential virtues of that single speech for the Old North State.

Governor Bickett's administration was marked by simplicity and by no great outward, dramatic strides on the part of the people whose chief servant he was, but there was a calmness and evenness of temper during his reign, a spirit of tranquility and quiet that was pervasive and that was traceable to his own amiableness of disposition and belovedness of character. He was a peace-maker where storms of industrial passion raged and in the councils of men in the State where acridity and animosity broke forth, he was the chief apostle of the gospel of suavity and amity. Thus he came to be greatly esteemed for other gifts than his native eloquence, for that gift of soul which was his to reach down to the undercurrents of strife and discontent and bid the turbulent waters of society be still.

### LOANS ON REAL ESTATE.

One of the new fields being exploited by insurance companies is that of aiding in home-building and otherwise assisting their insured in coming into possession either of their own farms or urban properties, the companies making long-time loans liquidated by payments over a long number of years. It is understood that there is one insurance company maintaining large offices in Charlotte that has \$5,000,000 in such loans in this immediate territory and during the first ten months of 1921, it is stated, American life insurance companies have put out \$261,000,000 on city and farm property.

The real estate mortgage loans of the life companies have been doubled in ten years, increasing from \$1,228,000,000 at the end of 1911 to \$2,468,000,000 on October 31st of the present year. The amount of farm mortgages is slightly in the lead, but the new mortgages now being made indicate the beginning of a returning trend toward the city.

Real estate mortgages have jumped from second to first place in the list of life insurance investments, displacing railroad securities which led by a large margin at the beginning of the decade just closing. Real estate mortgages now form more than 32 per cent of the total assets of \$7,300,000,000 held by the companies to mature the policies of the American people. Railroad securities, which formed more than 25 per cent 10 years ago, are now about 26 per cent. The amount of the railroad securities increased from \$1,385,000,000 to \$1,793,000,000 at the end of 1920. Policy loans of \$20,000,000 rank third and United States Government bonds of \$72,000,000 are a close fourth, being 11.30 per cent of the assets. Other investments include state, county and municipal bonds and real estate.

### THE BETTER YEAR.

The Textile World says that the best thing that can be said about 1921 is that it is about over. "Not in the sense," it continues, "that January 1st, 1922 is going to mark the beginning of a business boom, because industrial cycles do not travel on prearranged dates. But school boys, ministers, teachers, doctors and all will tell you that 1922 is going to be a better business year. It's in the air and it isn't necessary to be a Delphi to sense it." All of which may be so and we certainly hope it is, but the new year is not going to be materially different in any respect from the year just closing

unless there is a different situation with the people. The calendars have nothing in the world to do with the making of unmaking of business. Time-periods have no influence upon economics. There are organic laws which are operative in the kingdom of business and these laws are held in their rightful orbits largely by the conditions and attitudes of the people.

If 1922 is going to be so much of a better year than this, it will be because organic industrial conditions justify the change and these organic industrial conditions hinge entirely upon the status of the human element in the transaction.

### COTTON IN THE BACK YARDS.

We wouldn't undertake to say that the farmers of Mecklenburg are in excellent financial shape, but it is abundantly obvious that they are nowhere near being prostrate by what has overtaken them within the last two cotton seasons. Traveling through the countryside, one can see stacks of cotton piled up in the back yards of farmers and bales of it on plantations where one is not accustomed to seeing any stored cotton at all this time of the year. In many instances, tenants are holding theirs along with the landlord, hoping for a better price and, even while holding it, they seem to be able to run along comfortably and to be far from down and out in matters economic.

This favorable situation is to be accounted for in only one way. It results from the practise which has been gradually growing in this county toward diversification, toward putting dependence in other crops than cotton to give the family a little money to run on during the year. Many farmers find that they can make enough money by selling odds and ends on the local market to keep them running, at least to keep them from having to ask the banks for money with which to get along until they can sell their cotton. They market eggs and butter and milk, grow vegetables and sell farm products of varied kinds during the Spring and Summer months and from the sale of such things, they receive a revenue that stands them in good stead while they are producing their large money crop, which is cotton.

Thus it is that in the Fall of the year they find themselves free and easy to do with their cotton largely as they please. They owe the merchants, the banks little. Nobody is pressing them to pay that which they owe and, consequently, they are thus enabled to hold on to their cotton until the price gets right.

That is the development which accounts for the presence of so much cotton on so many farms of the county this winter, at a time when one might suppose that the farmers would have been driven to the market with it in order to realize enough revenue with which to meet their obligations.

And if such is the tale of progress and independence which is to be told of some of Mecklenburg's producers, it could just as easily be the story written of every one of them if they would only follow in the pathway of these pioneers into diversification. There is still an unfilled market here in Charlotte. Not near enough is being made in the county to feed those in the city. The urban population is still forced to buy much of its produce from afar and is buying much of what it eats from distant producers, thus taking money out of the city that should be left right here in Mecklenburg county for the profitable development of both city and county alike.

### NORTH DONEGAL FAVORS TREATY

Six Dail Eireann Members Called Upon to Work for Ratification.

Belfast, Dec. 28.—(By the Associated Press)—A convention of Sinn Fein clubs of North Donegal, held at Buncrana, has adopted a resolution by unanimous vote expressing satisfaction with the Irish peace treaty as embodying the essential of Ireland's freedom and safeguarding Ireland's honor. Reports submitted before the vote showed that such district in the constituency favored ratification of the pact.

The resolution called upon the six Dail Eireann members representing the district not only to vote for the treaty but to use their influence to bring about ratification. Failure to do this, the resolution stated, would be regarded as a betrayal of the best interests of the country and gross contempt for the opinions of the constituents.

### NAVAN COUNCIL FAVORABLE.

Navan, County Meath, Ireland, Dec. 28.—The urban council of Navan has adopted a resolution favoring ratification of the Anglo-Irish peace treaty. This action was taken at a meeting of the council yesterday.

### CONTINUANCE OF WAR MEASURE IS FAVORED

Paris, Dec. 28.—A bill providing for continuance of the war measure adopted in 1916 giving the Government power to increase customs duties by simple decree has been approved by the customs duties committee of the Chamber of Deputies. The chairman of the committee said the favorable report was justified by the fact that several other countries were following this system. Some of them had even decreed that the duties be paid in gold and had applied a super tax to make up the difference in exchange rates. Cancellation of France's commercial agreement with Spain had been provoked by similar measures, he said.

### OSTEOPATHY

Is the science of healing by adjustment.  
DR. H. F. RAY  
319 Realty Bldg.  
DR. FRANK L. MILLER  
610 Realty Bldg.  
DR. ARTHUR M. DYE  
224 Piedmont Bldg.  
Osteopaths, Charlotte, N. C.  
INFORMATION BY REQUEST



Ask Sue Lipstick what she weighs and she will knock you in a daze by telling you one twenty-three—a score more than she looks to be.

Now here is where the error lay when Sue went down the street to weigh. She had a fur coat on her back that made the light scales bend and crack, a bundle from a dry goods store that made her weigh some two pounds more and in her paw a large hand-bag that almost made her right side sag. As heavenward the arrow went, she cried, "My penny is well spent, for I have found to my delight I weigh more than I did last night. If this keeps up, I'll weigh a ton before the week is half-way done." And so she smiles and strokes her chin to see how far the skin sinks in and pulls a nickel from her belt to get five pennies for the jit, trusting that by half past four she might have gained a few pounds more. After two more attraction sales she springs once more upon the scales with packages of every sort that she has been outside and brought. "Aha!" she cries, "I gain by bounds—I've put on 13 surplus pounds!" Not knowing that she's skin and bones, she sings with laughter in her tones and spreads around a hundred tales about the way she broke the scales.

To make the scales correctly tip—carry them back home and strip. Although you want your real true weight to tip the scales past 28, you have no right to tot your horn with bundles and a fur coat on. Place your junk upon the shelf and don't attempt to fool yourself.

### MORE THAN HUNDRED MILLION WERE SPENT

New York, Dec. 28.—More than \$100,000,000 was spent by the American people for toys and games during 1921, the National City Bank has figured. The factory value of toys manufactured in this country has more than tripled, it is estimated, since the war cut off the supply from Germany, chief source of America's toy imports. The value of toys made here in 1919 was given as \$46,000,000, compared with \$14,000,000 five years previously. Capital invested in the American industry advanced from \$10,000,000 in 1914 to \$25,000,000 in 1919. Toy imports declined from \$8,000,000 in 1913 to \$1,000,000 in 1918, while imports rose in 1920 to \$6,000,000 and to \$10,000,000 in 1921. Exports of American toys jumped from less than \$1,000,000 in 1913 to \$4,000,000 last year.

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If Every Wife knew what every widow knows, every husband would be insured. Braswell & Crichton. Agents Prudential Insurance Co. 803 Com'l Bank Bldg. Phone 1697.

If It's For THE OFFICE We Have It. Desks, chairs, safes, filing cabinets, book-keeping systems, etc. Consult us about your office needs. Pound & Moore Co. Phone 4542.

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"THE HOME OF BETTER VALUES"

# New Year Opportunity

Beginning

# TODAY

## After Christmas Sale of Ready-to-Wear

An Absolute Clearance of Women's, Misses' and Children's Coats, Suits and Dresses

### Women's Suits

Small lot of tailored and handsomely fur-trimmed Suits of Marvella, Veldyne and other soft fabrics. Many of them are trimmed with braid and beautiful embroidery. Priced \$49.50 to \$89.50. To be closed out at



1-2 Price

### Women's Dresses

Silk and Wool Dresses, Fashionable Dinner, Afternoon and Street Dresses of Canton Crepe, Crepe Back Satin, Georgette Crepe, Tricotine and Serge. Some of them are richly beaded, and handsomely embroidered while others are plainly tailored. Frocks in the lot to \$49.50, now priced



\$14.95 to \$24.95

### Women's Coats and Wraps

Richly fur-trimmed Wraps, straight-line and blouse-back models of Pollyanna, Panvelaine, or Bolivia; all in the newest and best shades. Coats in this group that formerly sold to \$89.50.

Now \$39.50 and \$49.50

### Women's Coats

Smart Coats for street and general wear, developed in the season's most desirable materials and colors, in a wide variety of styles. Some with fur collars. Coats in this lot formerly priced to \$49.50.

Now \$18.50 and \$24.95

### Children's Coats

Good assortment of Children's Coats in the season's newest and best materials, styles and colorings. Some with fur trimmings. Sizes 2 to 14 years. All specially priced for this sale.

End-of-the-Year Sales and Clearances Prevail Throughout the Store. SWEEPING REDUCTIONS ON ALL MEN'S AND BOYS' OVERCOATS—Men's Overcoats Reduced to \$19.95, \$14.95, \$9.95 and \$6.95. Schloss and Styleplus Overcoats \$25.00, \$29.50 and \$39.50. Boys' Overcoats \$2.98, \$3.95, \$4.95, \$6.95, \$9.95 and \$12.95. Mackinaws \$2.98, \$3.95, \$4.95, \$6.95 and \$9.95.