

THE CONCORD TIMES

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J. B. SHERRILL, Editor and Publisher W. M. SHERRILL, Associate Editor

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KNOWLEDGE OF THE BIBLE.

The Asheville Citizen recently ran a serial, entitled, 'Jesus of Nazareth, the world's most perfect biography, by Dr. Luke.' The reactions to this story are varied. Many of the Citizen readers thought the article was written by some radical modernist and the publishers of the Asheville paper were roundly denounced by letter and by word of mouth.

'The Citizen editors are used to the criticism of persons who have read a story and have found an error. They are ever ready to correct such errors, but to be criticised for publishing portions of the Holy Bible, has caused no end of amusement within the sanctums of these so-called sacrilegious editors, who have been accused of propagating 'red and radical literature.'

'One man, however, was conciliatory. He said that he had read a part of the biography and thought Dr. Luke was a fair writer. He added the comment that he had never read any of his work before. One of the most remarkable comments made was that of a man who is supposed to be fairly well versed in the works of the Bible. This man advised his friends not to read the biography as 'this man Luke was an infidel.'

'A prominent citizen of Asheville was approached on the subject and was asked if he had been reading the daily installments by Dr. Luke. He said 'No' very emphatically, and added that he imagined that Dr. Luke was just another one of those 'modernists' and had decided not to clutter up his brain with such pestiferous piffle. Another local light wanted to know if this were the same Dr. Luke who wrote 'Dr. Luke of Labrador.'

'On the other hand the editors received a number of compliments for running these 'radical' statements from the pen of an 'infidel.'

'The 'People's Forum' carried letters almost daily from admirers of Dr. Luke. A few of them, however, were vague. In many instances the stories were praised, but the writers of the communications refrained from venturing enough comments to condemn them as students of the Bible.'

Many 'Believers' in the Bible limit their faith to the dispensation between the covers of the Book and take no chances on excerpts they do not recognize. Confidence in His character inspires the belief that Jesus, Himself, would be condemned in the average pious codern community in this country as a radical and a 'modernist' if He were here, disturbing the smug complacency of many, as He undoubtedly would.

BANNING AUTOS AT COLLEGE.

Princeton university authorities have decided that students with automobiles on the campus don't get along well in their studies; so after June of this year students at that university are not allowed to have automobiles.

The decision has created considerable discussion among college authorities as well as among students, and has brought out the fact that similar restrictions are in force in other universities and colleges.

It is not an uncommon thing for a student, says The Pathfinder, or several students to buy a delapidated second-hand car and run it for all it is worth, even in a reckless way since no great amount of money is involved. Though some of these cars are put to practical use a great many others, educators fear, are employed for joy-riding, petting parties and other reprehensible purposes. In fact, study of the crime wave has definitely involved the auto as a contributing factor toward juvenile delinquency.

Opposition to the use of cars by male and female students is voiced by almost all the leading college heads. Princeton and Vassar are among the institutions which object to autos. 'The use of autos has never been allowed at Vassar on the grounds of safety, democracy and interference with academic work,' explains the latter. Princeton adopted the curb when it was found that most of the 200 students who operated cars there were behind in their studies. The senior student council resigned in protest: The ban is effective July 1st.

Inquiry by the American Automobile Association revealed President Coffman of the University of Minnesota to be one of the few educators opposed to eliminating the student car. Dr. Coffman explains: 'Any artificial restrictions upon young people in the use of automobiles must be regarded as only temporary solutions. For universities to take the position that they will refuse automobiles to students is not, in my judgment, the proper way to solve the problem. Responsibility for self-control must be built up in each student and restrictive legislation should be reduced to a minimum.'

If all of the students at a college or university could have an automobile there would be little opposition we believe, for under such circumstances the auto would be accepted as the usual thing and would create no barrier between students of all classes. It's not wholesome in many universities, especially in the South, for the sons of rich men to ride around in their automobiles while the majority of the students have to walk.

The practice creates a spirit of class distinction to a degree, and such a spirit is not wholesome at any college or university. Too, the student with an automobile handy at any times may be expected to spend less time on the campus than he otherwise would do. The auto is liable to make him appear 'superior' and nothing else does so much as this to put a boy at college in the wrong light. The boy who spends most of his time off the campus misses much of college life. He makes fewer friends and thus loses one of the finest things of college life.

INFANT MORTALITY RATES.

Cabarrus county ranks 65th from the top of North Carolina counties in maternal and infant mortality rates. The maternal mortality rate in the county for 1925, the last year for which figures are available, was 4.6 per 1,000 live births and the infant mortality rate for the year was 78.7 per 1,000 live births.

S. H. Hobbs, Jr., in the University News Letter, goes into the matter fully, finding that Clay county appears to have ranked best in the state for the year 1925, with only 13.4 deaths of infants under one year of age per one thousand live births. Pasquotank had the highest infant death rate with approximately one infant death for every seven children born during the year, or one hundred and thirty-five infant deaths per one thousand live births, an appalling infant death rate.

North Carolina has a high infant death rate compared with other states. Out of thirty-seven states for which data were reported by the Federal Census in 1923, only ten states had higher infant death rates than North Carolina.

Not only is the infant death rate high in North Carolina, but also the maternal mortality rate for the state was 8.2 per one thousand live births. During the year 1925 six hundred and ninety mothers were reported to have died from puerperal causes, that is causes resulting from childbirth. Six counties reported no deaths to mothers resulting from childbirth. The rate was highest in Jones county with 20.3 deaths of mothers resulting from childbirth per one thousand live births. In thirty-three counties the maternal mortality rate was above ten per one thousand live births. There appears to be some tendency for counties with high infant death rates to have high maternal mortality rates, but there are many exceptions.

A study will show that the counties which make the best showing are mainly mountain counties and extreme eastern tidewater counties with large white population ratios. There are very few exceptions to this rule. The counties that make the worst showing, those having high infant death rates, are located in the eastern half of the state. The last twenty-three counties appearing in the table are with one exception all located

in the eastern half of the state. The exception is Forsyth where the negro ratio is high. It will be noted that almost without exception the counties that have high infant death rates have high negro population ratios. The negro infant death rate is ordinarily about fifty per cent. higher than the white infant death rate.

However, there are many counties with large white population ratios that have high infant death rates, as Davie, Surry, Polk, and others.

Children born alive but dying before the first birthday numbered 6,591 in North Carolina in 1925. Probably a large number of infant deaths were not reported. More infants die in North Carolina each year than there are people in many counties of the State. The rate is appalling. The cause is largely ignorance of the proper care of infants. More adequate facilities for the proper instruction of mothers, young and old, would greatly reduce the infant death rate.

This is a matter that should demand the attention of health authorities more than any other in North Carolina. We are making progress with the elimination of certain diseases that formerly killed hundreds of our citizens each year but we are not making the progress we should make in the fight against infant deaths. North Carolina has the highest birth rate of any State in the Union but we are losing many of our babes through ignorance and carelessness. Especially is this true among members of the colored race.

THIRTY LYNCHINGS IN YEAR.

Lynchings in the United States increased from 17 in 1925 to 30 in 1926, says a report compiled by a committee of church men. Practically the entire increase was in Southern States.

Again North Carolina takes position with those States whose records during the year were not blackened by mob violence. It is true that mobs were active in the State but officers saw to it that the mobs were frustrated, thus carrying out their duties in the face of unusual difficulties and at the same time proving to the rest of the South that there is no excuse for mob violence when officers perform their duties.

High officials in the State of North Carolina have not hesitated to take drastic action when mobs threatened to take the law into their own hands, and this determined action has meant the defeat of the law violators. You can't handle mob members with gloves. They are desperate when they form their crowd and desperate methods must be adopted in combatting them. Troops have been called out in North Carolina on several occasions within the past several years and they have upheld the law. Members of mobs who stormed jails have been sentenced to the chain gang and others who took a prisoner from a North Carolina jail and mutilated him are serving sentences in the State prison.

That's the proper way to break up the mob spirit. Officers can't afford to coddle men who would take the law into their own hands. You can't reason with a mob when it is on duty, for while reasoning is being done the mob moves on to its goal.

There is no excuse for lynchings in any State in the Union. Where lynchings occur there is usually a careless spirit among officials. Stern, energetic, determined county officers can prevent lynchings in most instances. North Carolina met the threat in recent years with determination and as a result there has not been a lynching in the State in five years.

UNDER THE STEERING WHEEL.

The Morganton News-Herald says 'next to the drunken driver the greatest menace on the highways is the child driver.' The Salisbury Post disagrees, and with some reason, taking the position that next to the drunken driver the greatest menace is 'the little headed fellow who drives another man's car.'

We have ample reason to give a loud 'amen' to the Post for daily here one marvels that the 'little headed fellows' don't kill themselves and about everybody else on the streets. The driver of the other man's car, says The Post, usually 'drives a truck, for which he feels no responsibility or care. It is not his to maintain or keep gas in, and he knows that the responsible man or woman who does not wish to get injured in the car he or she owns, nor wishes the car injured will stop or get out of his way, so he has the right of way by a process of elimination.'

The Post argues further, and with logic, that the best way to get facts is to ask the men who furnish the cars for the other fellows to drive. 'If you want further proof,' says The Post, 'of this driver's ways and costliness of it, ask one of these business men who buy trucks and gasoline and put this type of driver on the seat. Get his figures for original cost and upkeep and add that to the general cost of living in the community and one

gets another object lesson in the expensive ways of one of these loose drivers who care little what he does and whom he inconveniences.' Of course there are exceptions to the rule and The Post explains that it is talking 'of a type to be found everywhere handling the steering wheel of a delivery truck. We see this class daily and we get out of their way, too.'

The Salisbury editor sums up the sensible thing to do in the last sentence. We have seen no way to curb the driver who has nothing invested and the best thing to do is to keep out of his way. Certainly there should be some law or method by which truck drivers would be made to stand an examination and put up bond. It endangers the lives of everybody else when irresponsible men are turned loose with an auto, especially when the auto doesn't belong to them.

WOULD NOT APPOINT HIS RELATIVES.

Well-known Washington correspondent during the dull season between congressional sessions has been probing into the facts as to congressional clerk hire by North Carolina Representatives and Senators with some rather interesting results. One of the conclusions reached by the correspondent is that four members of Congress from this State have enabled relatives to earn nearly six thousand dollars a year by employing them in clerical or some other capacity. Such employment of kinsman or in-laws by Congressmen is legitimate, but nepotism on the part of elective public officials is likely to evoke some criticism.—Greensboro Record.

Woodrow Wilson, when President of the United States, set an example that all other men in office should follow. He declined to appoint a brother and cousin to office and while he may have caused a row in the family he played square with his constituents.

In its issue of March 9th, 1913, the Washington Post in its 'interview' column, said that President Wilson 'is not going to be charged with nepotism.' It added that 'it is known that he declined to give any encouragement to the candidacy of his brother for the membership of the Senate.' The Post went on to say: 'Friends of Capt. A. M. Wilson, of Portland, Oregon, a cousin of the President, have been urging the captain's appointment as a member of the Philippine Commission. Captain Wilson's friends went to the War Department in a body to see Secretary Garrison,' said Col. R. A. Harvey, of Portland, 'and urged the Secretary to recommend the captain's appointment. The Secretary listened patiently to the visitors and then declared that he had talked with the President about the appointment of Captain Wilson and that the President had told him emphatically he would not appoint his relatives to office.'

In making this decision at the beginning of his administration, President Wilson was following the principle laid down by Jefferson, who declared a hundred years before that 'the public will never be made to believe that an appointment of a relative is made on the ground of merit alone, uninfluenced by family views; nor can they ever see with approbation offices, the disposal of which they entrust to their Presidents for public purposes, divided out as family property.'

TAR SUPERVISOR AND AUDITOR.

John L. Miller has been named tax supervisor and auditor for Cabarrus County, and he has a job that demands common sense. He is going to be criticised more than praised but he has been before the public long enough to take this sensibly, and he should be fearless enough to do his duty regardless of what the public has to say.

There will be all kinds of complaint when the revaluation of property is begun and Mr. Miller should be careful in his selection of township assistants. A man on this job should know local conditions, should understand 'and appreciate land values, should take into consideration improvements that make some farm land, especially, more valuable than others, and above all else should be capable of listening to reason.

We do not mean that Mr. Miller or his assistants should change their valuation figures each time they get a complaint or someone criticises them; rather we mean that they should be ready and willing to hear the complaints and give them due consideration. The tax supervisor and his assistants, whoever they may be, are merely human after all, and may be expected to make mistakes, but these will be less numerous if common sense is used in dealing with property throughout the county.

The public should be lenient with Mr. Miller and his aides. These men have a difficult task and an important one and they should be burdened with as few complaints as possible. It will do no one

any particular good to censure and complain for we feel sure that the supervisor will be glad to entertain any reasonable request for adjustment. Where the property owner feels that he has cause for adjustment he should go to the supervisor or list taker and state his proposition. That is much better than the method many will use—a method of criticising and censuring behind the backs of the officials. The former method will get results if adjustment is justified, while the latter will result in nothing but hard feelings.

The tax supervisor and auditor were made mandatory in a bill passed by the recent Legislature. The two offices have been combined in Cabarrus by the county Commissioners who were anxious to comply with the law and at the same time to keep down expenses.

WATCH QUALITY, NOT QUANTITY.

Eastern farmers have been warned again, this time by the President of the Atlantic Cotton Association, against planting all of their land in cotton this season. The speaker pointed out that farmers in this section of the growing belt must devote their energies toward getting the best possible staple rather than to growing big crops.

The farmer of the west can produce cotton so much cheaper than the farmer of the east that the latter must produce the better grade if he would keep in the competition. This has been true for several years and is becoming more noticeable each season. With their 'huge tracks and modern machinery the western cotton producer has much the advantage but the eastern farmer can stay in the running if he will produce the better staple.

The better staple grows as easily as the poorer staple and always commands a better price. Farmers here who produced a long staple cotton last season found a readier market and higher prices than the man who had a lower grade with a shorter staple.

Eastern farmers might as well face the issue and prepare to change their tactics or stop the cotton raising business. They must go in for quality rather than quantity or find their lot growing no better from each year to year.

Former Senator Butler, of Massachusetts, campaign manager in the last Presidential fight for President Coolidge, is preparing for a swing through the west in an effort to 'size up' sentiment there for the President. He is going to spend some time in the farming States, to see what political damage the President did when he vetoed the farm relief bill. All of which indicates that the President is undecided yet about 1928. If he had definitely decided not to make the race he wouldn't care what the farmers thought. If he had made up his mind not to enter the race he would not establish the White House in the Middle West this summer. He would go where he pleased and let the voters think what they wanted to think. Senator Butler has nothing to do now but look after the President's interests, having been defeated for re-election, so he may be expected to spend the next several weeks feeling the political pulse of the west.

ANOTHER COAL STRIKE.

New York Sun. No general strike of coal miners in the history of the industry has attracted so little attention as that which takes out the bituminous miners in the central competitive district at midnight. Anthracite miners' strike, though anthracite is a comparatively negligible element in the coal industry outside of the States on the Atlantic coast, is always looked on as a calamity. But when the union soft coal miners in the States of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and the western end of Pennsylvania go out the public pays virtually no heed to them.

This is due to the confusion and demoralization that exist in the soft coal business. In the bitter competition between the union and non-union miners the non-unionists have had all the best of the fight because their managers have been able to adjust to prices. The union mines have been losing business steadily to their rivals. It has been demonstrated that the non-unionists can supply practically all the coal that is needed, consequently a soft coal miners' strike does not mean a coal famine, though it may inconvenience some consumers, injure some mine owners and embarrass some miners.

The strike that begins tonight resolves itself into a local annoyance. It does not attain the dimensions of national misfortune.

22,001,393 MOTOR CARS.

New York Sun. The Bureau of Public Roads at Washington reports that there were 22,001,393 registered motor cars in the United States at the close of 1926—an increase of 2,000,000 over the year before—and the registration and license fees collected by the various States reached the sum of \$288,282,252.

If America developed in the last century along the railroads instead of along the highways that served the purposes of earlier generations it is clear the motor car is bringing back the joys of the old days, with a difference. Good roads are becoming the rule instead of the exception everywhere, and those who lived even before the steam engine came in would be astonished if they could come back and see what has been accomplished.

No longer do the denizens of New York city complain that they have to pay most of the cost of new highways in the Adirondacks. A good road is a good road no matter where it is and part of the assets of the whole State.

Sending notes to a Chinese government is on a par with arguing with a Chinese laundryman over a lost shirt.—Watertown Times.

A CODE OF ETHICS

Winston-Salem Journal. Sooner or later more codes of ethics will be givng the members of the leagues. Speaking before the Monday night session, said: 'The function of character with character and honest and product of a profession.'

Few persons have ever ennobling ideal more than of any public profession everywhere could probably find whom they endeavor to imitate quite put the stamp of the majority of people upon them. Moreover, the of their work perpetuates against the profession, suggests crime with all and this notion unfavorable opinion of all lawyers.

It is also a fact that profession are no credit themselves. The fact that small has little weight who are inclined to get the reprehensible acts of who are, as a rule, generous to be poor as well as is perhaps no less than other professions, but which lawyers generally frequently emphasized of Harding has done a worthy public and lawyers as well the fact there are honest are both a credit to them which they serve.

WILSON AND

Ohio State Journal.

The death last week of of Woodrow Wilson, into President's career in 1913, shortly after President to serve his first term. an active candidate for the United States Senate. to such preference but whose influence with the at that time, would have Instead of speaking that made it plain to the Senate lieve a man should be given service on the score of his expressed himself vigorously as a result, the position went to another Democrat.

President Wilson's political ambition may have in the family, but, however, was entirely right. He made a family name for the public offices place the payrolls the suspicion of general naturally and inevitably Public servants should be suspicion. By shaking up it mars their usefulness. King power should be reserved disqualification for a public

RELIGION AND

Hickory Record.

Whatever else the most in Mexico has done to the an editorial in this week taught it the lesson of politics. 'There has not the editorial points out the consequences of imper of state.

'It has confused the elements of both Mexico and editorial continues, 'and regard any action with support countries opinion has been national interest, international play, and focused on religion.

BOY, THEN

Stanley News Herald.

Eugene Ascraft, of the following in his Call. 'In looking over an published August 19, 1926 came across the following in small type, with about the above:

'This space has been & Co., Charlotte, N. C. ceeries, Liquors, Tobacco, etc. not to advertise for available gets a little better. go to Charlotte.'

'Should such advertisements 'Wholesale dealers in tobacco'—it would not at all 'Call and see Henry?'

'But there is some need during a busy season. I need to invite more customers than he can serve. The is when more business is when more business is Charlotte now and could be at 45 years ago. He was much as a man in His big as a peck bucket, and the greatest trading center in not excepted.'

THE FIFTY

Asheville Times.

Judge Shaw would have from the streets and highways lie steady. Passing sections negro convicted of manslaughter. Mrs. Carrie Henderson was Shaw said that these most of the accidents.

When you want to stop you want them out of the when you get near a pile wrecks of cars are to be but Judge Shaw has the would want to be enforced the absence of enforcement of one else you can repossess you get it from a responsible one else you can repossess see that it is tested thoroughly to its response to direct lives of others.

In the arrangement of all other nations.—