

THE MONROE JOURNAL

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TIME TO QUIT.

It is simply time to quit grousing about "revaluation." This thing has got down to the point of being a scapegoat. Some people do have to pay more tax this year than they did before, but that is because they were not paying their just part before. No more taxes are being collected this year than last, that is only the ten per cent total increase. And no less will be collected next year nor next year after that, unless the people should suddenly go insane and decide to quit building roads and running schools as doing the other things that they are not going to stop doing. Some men are paying more, as stated above, because they had not been paying their part before, for the whole purpose of the revaluation act was to make the tax payments as fair as possible. Most of the gentlemen who are complaining about increased taxes are simply kicking because they cannot continue to carry the light end of the stick while others struggle along with the heavy end.

Then, much of the talk about taxes would never have been heard had not the flush times ceased. We are all grousing about the shutting down of easy money and taxes are the easiest thing to hit. No legislature is going to change the valuation act because it is fair and just and the people have already passed on it. Just as well forget it now and quit harping on it.

What Crops Should Be Increased as the Cotton Acreage is Decreased.

With the price of cotton much below the present cost of production, the growing of other crops and livestock is certain to receive much more attention. In the Southeastern states the boll weevil is giving an additional reason for attention to other crops than cotton.

In practically all cotton growing sections there is likely to be much casting about for other crops and other lines of farming to occupy a part of the acreage recently planted to cotton. The general farmers seek a substitute for cotton instead of a supplement to that crop. No greater mistake could be made than an attempt to make a radical change in our farming in one year. Such radical changes or revolutions nearly always spell disaster. Surely we should have learned by this time that we cannot jump from one crop into another, or from one system or line of farming to another, from one season to the next, to meet fluctuations in prices. The man who attempts this sort of thing is nearly always one or two years behind the game and finds that instead of meeting the best prices with the largest production he hits the lowest prices when he has most to market.

The cotton acreage must be reduced. Even if disastrously low prices for cotton had not come this year, they were sure to come before long if the tendency to put every possible acre into cotton had been continued. We have been putting too large a proportion of our cultivated lands into cotton on too many farms. Decreasing soil fertility and a lack of feed and food crops were bound to cause decreased returns from cotton, even if the price had not fallen below present cost of production.

A reduction in the cotton acreage would, therefore, be advisable, even if prices were now satisfactory. But with the double reason for reducing the cotton acreage for 1921, thousands will be asking the question, What crops should be grown on these released cotton lands?

First, let us answer that if these lands are devoted to crops, or to lines of farming with which the farmer is not entirely familiar it should be done only on a small scale for the first year or two. In other words, if a radical change in crops is to be made, or if a large acreage formerly planted to cotton is to be put into other crops, which should probably be done on some farms, these crops should only be those with which we are entirely familiar.

Corn is a crop with which we are more or less familiar, and the acreage now planted is large. Shall we plant the released cotton lands to corn? There can be no reason for not planting enough land to corn to supply all the possible feed and food needs of the farm for corn. It is perhaps safe to plant even more than this, if there is likely to be a fairly good local demand, or an extra lot

of hogs to feed, under conditions which give a fair chance for profit. But poor lands should not be planted to corn, it is not a good money crop in the South. Our lands are too poor and the negro tenant, even if closely supervised, cannot make a living for himself and the landlord growing corn, so long as our average yields are twenty bushels to the acre or less. But we can safely put enough of the cotton lands into corn to supply the needs of the farm, which we have not done in the past on the farms where the proportion of the land planted to cotton has been largest.

In every section there is some hay crop which does reasonably well, but there are few sections in the South where hay is produced in sufficient quantities to supply local demands, and still less where hay is produced as a money crop.

Certainly hay can be safely produced to supply the need of the farm and such other local demands as generally exist; but the man who has produced hay as a sales crop should go slowly into the business, until he has canvassed carefully the cost of the machinery equipment, his transportation facilities, his markets and his own fitness for this special line of farming.

Again, many of our acres planted to cotton need to be made richer. A crop of legumes plowed under will do this. Therefore, if there is an old cotton field, which has not been profitably productive and we can get along without the small crop from it, let it be put into some legume and the crop plowed under, or grazed off by livestock, if good livestock are available.

In short, let us reduce our cotton acreage, but let us use judgment and caution in launching into other lines of farming and other crops with which we are not familiar.—The Progressive Farmer.

Baptist Hospital Goes to Winston-Salem.

The committee vested with the power of selecting the North Carolina city in which the big hospital to be erected by the Baptist church will be located, rendered its decision at midnight of Thursday and decided upon Winston-Salem. Following the conference at Raleigh Thursday afternoon the committee was unable to agree. Two of the members favored Raleigh, two Greensboro and one Winston-Salem. The members of the committee left Raleigh Thursday night and in hope that they might come to an agreement they traveled on the same train. It is reported that a vote was taken at Selma with the result that the verdict was awarded to Winston-Salem.

A delegation of Greensboro citizens was present at the meeting Thursday afternoon. They presented in forceful manner the natural claims of this city for the location of the institution, pointing out that Greensboro was the logical place for the service of the greatest number of Baptists in the state. Greensboro also made the tender of \$100,000 in money and a building site. Five other cities made similar offers.

The committee appointed by the local chamber of commerce to raise funds and secure subscriptions waged a valiant fight in behalf of Greensboro toward securing the hospital and keen disappointment is felt by these gentlemen, as well as many other citizens interested in securing the institution for this city.

Miss Pearl Stilwell Bride of Mr. J. D. Houston.

A very quiet wedding was solemnized last Wednesday evening, December 29, 1920, at six o'clock, in the Presbyterian parsonage at Mint Hill when Miss Pearl Stilwell became the bride of Mr. Jeff Houston. The bride wore a coat suit of dark blue serge, with black accessories. Among those present were Misses Ruby and Audrey Stilwell, sisters of the bride, and Messrs. Edward McWhiter, of Charlotte, and Will H. Beaver of Mint Hill, and Georget Houston, and Miss Annie Houston, brother and sister of the groom. After the ceremony they all motored to the home of the groom's father, Mr. W. T. Houston, where the Mint Hill string band furnished music and a sumptuous supper was served. Hot chocolate and delicious drinks were also served. The bride is a daughter of Mrs. Lula Stilwell, of Goose Creek township and is an attractive young lady and will be greatly missed in her home and community.

Mr. Houston is a charming young man of splendid character and an industrious farmer. Mr. and Mrs. Houston have a host of friends who wish for them a long and happy life.—A Friend.

That Naughty Member.

Tongues often run away with people, and sometimes they don't know when to stop. The dashing manager of a fashionable hotel in a great city allowed his tongue to become indiscreet when an opera singer claimed there was an error in her bill.

His unruly member applied certain epithets to her which gentlemen do not use in the presence of ladies. A jury awarded her five thousand dollars damages.

The manager didn't have the five thousand. Now he is in jail, and the singer is paying the county three dollars and a half a week for his board.

She is happy, and hopes she will be permitted to continue her "charity" for an indefinite period. An unruly tongue is a naughty thing to have. It is about as profitable to the average mortal as would be the split tongue of a serpent.

At least, without the five thousand.—Exchange.

They Would, But They Can't.

Japanese statesmen seem to be poised. If they continue in their present frame of mind, they may eventually become vexed.

The Japs are determined to secure racial and social equality with us Americans. They are very persistent, and even ultimate unpleasant consequences if we don't open the door and invite them in.

But most people in this country have other views. We are in the habit of choosing our associates, especially when we invite them into family circles—the American holy of holies.

We are perfectly willing to exchange commodities with the Japanese. That is trade.

But we are not willing to exchange daughters. That is a matter too close to our hearts to let policy interfere with our judgment.

We wish them well, and they have our good will in all material things that are wise and just.

But, much as they may desire it, they cannot have our daughters.

And racial and social equality means nothing else.—Exchange.

Dr. H. Hewitt Brown, Dentist, of Monroe and Laurinburg Changes Field of Practice.

A survey of the past six years has brought to my recollection many acquaintances, and of this miscellaneous group my pride is manifold. They have been the means of imparting to me invaluable knowledge, and of the kind that could not be gained from the class rooms of the best regulated universities. The closeness of association with human nature and its intricacies offers to me the solution of problems which hitherto had been deemed difficult. Equally as important are the philosophical and psychological knowledge that one gains from this contact. It is only natural to state that during this period of time business here and there had thrown me with some of the best people of the opposite race. Candidly speaking, after arriving in the South, I did cherish grave doubts as to my business intercourse; but as years rolled by, and my understanding of affairs developed, my fears on that score were completely eradicated; and it forms a pleasing thing for me at this juncture to state that several prominent members of the Caucasian stock have helped me to signal success. With my own race I must extend them praise without measure. Handicapped for want of dental knowledge, and all other conditions duly considered, they have adapted the instructions given readily, and the alacrity of their response is surprising. Should they continue in this role they are bound to enhance the standard of dentistry in this section. But I must here seize the chance to acquaint my many friends, white and black, of the change I am called upon to make. Tangible offers have been extended me that will suit my purpose better. Realizing that the offers mean an advancement educationally, professionally, financially, and many other ways, I hereby inform my patients that I shall discontinue dental operations in the State very early in the coming year.

Dr. Brown proposes to spend the next three or four months in the Columbia University before resuming his practice.

Dr. Brown has received a letter from the State Dental authorities commending him highly on his work.

The Sign.

Dobbs: Time must hang heavily on your hands.

Nobbs: Why?

Dobbs: Well, you wear such a large wrist watch.

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