

The Mount Airy News.

ESTABLISHED 1880

MOUNT AIRY, NORTH CAROLINA. THURSDAY, AUGUST 18th, 1921.

\$1.50 PER YEAR IN ADVANCE.

Fighting the Devil in Modern Babylon

By Rev. John Roach Stratton, D. D. in Dearborn Independent

John Stratton Roach was born in Evansville, Indiana, April 6, 1875, of Southern parents, his father the Rev. Dr. H. D. R. Stratton. Dr. Stratton was educated at Mercer University, Macon, Georgia; the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville; the University of Chicago, and the Boston school of Oratory. Since entering the ministry, Dr. Stratton has held four notable pastorates, the first that of the Second Baptist church, Chicago; the second that of the Immanuel-Seventh church, Baltimore; the third that of the First Baptist church, Norfolk, Va., and his present one, the world-famous Calvary Baptist church, on Fifth Avenue, New York. He is the author of several books and has been a frequent contributor to magazines. Recently he had the metropolis of the United States stirred to bitter resentment by his investigations and exposures of evil conditions there.

New York is a modern Babylon! Indeed, the ancient city of that name was small in comparison with this mighty metropolis of today. The Hanging Gardens of ancient Babylon would dwindle into insignificance beside Woolworth Building, the Equitable Building or the Metropolitan Tower!

New York is now the greatest city upon earth. It is well called "The Metropolis of Mankind." There are more than 7,000,000 people within 20 miles of New York's City Hall. This is nearly as many as there are in all of Canada. This is as many as there are in half a dozen western of southern states rolled into one.

Nor is that all. If you extend your line to 100 miles and inscribe a circle around New York's City Hall, you will take in 20,000,000 people. In other words, about one-fifth of the entire population of the Republic is directly influenced by this great seething metropolis of today.

And what a mixed multitude it is. More than 30 different tongues are spoken in New York every day, and there are more than 25 newspapers published in foreign languages. Forty-five per cent of the entire population is foreign born, and more than 60 per cent is either foreign born or children of foreign-born parents. There are more Italians in New York than in Rome; there are more Germans than in any city of the world except Berlin and Hamburg; there are Russians enough in New York to constitute a city as large as St. Louis, and there are twice as many Jews as ever lived in Jerusalem at one time. The largest Jewish population ever assembled upon earth since the exodus from Egypt is now congested in New York City; about one in four of the population belonging to that interesting and—we will agree—enterprising race. New York is the largest Negro city in the world, and it is also the largest Irish city in the world. There are 200,000 more Irishmen in New York than there are in Dublin.

I am giving these facts about the population in order that my readers may understand that every problem which we confront in New York is affected by these conditions. We have many foreign cities within the confines of the greater city. There never has been anything on earth like it before. There have been great cities, and there has been some mixture of population, but never before upon the surface of the globe have there been brought together so many large groups of people from so many different races of the earth. And they are congested upon this little spot of ground which centers in Manhattan Island, jammed together and piled up on top of each other, at some points, fifty stories high!

The material splendor and strength of New York are almost unimaginable. The total wealth of this area is estimated by some as high as \$50,000,000,000. This is more than the entire nation was worth at the time of the Civil War. Everything in the city, of necessity, is done on a huge scale. For example, ten mail carriers are busy all the time each day handling the mail for one of our big office buildings alone; and it requires 5,000 tons of coal every night to light the 12,000,000 electric lights of the city, which illuminate the homes and offices, and make Broadway gleam with the splendor of the noonday and sparkle with the radiant glow of the rainbow.

Every day 800,000 people arrive or depart through the railroad stations. This means that a large city pours into the metropolis and out of it every 24 hours. And the traction lines of the

city—the subways, the elevated and the surface lines—carry approximately 8,000,000 people every 24 hours. This is twice as many as are carried by all the steam railroads of the entire United States in a day, and our country, as we know, has the greatest railroad system upon earth. Think of it! And think what a rushing, bustling hive of humanity the modern metropolis is.

There are 1,500 hotels in the city and 31 post offices. Four transients arrive every second. A passenger train comes into the city every 52 seconds, and a ship clears the harbor every 42 minutes. There is a real estate transaction every 25 minutes. In normal times, a new building is erected every hour, a fire occurs every 30 minutes, and every day more than 300 people move to New York to live. A wedding takes place every 13 minutes, a funeral every 14 minutes—so it is evident that the weddings still have the funerals beat, though by a very narrow margin—and every 6 minutes a new baby is born to face the problems and temptations, as well as the opportunities and privileges, which the marvelous metropolis offers.

I was speaking, some time since, in the South, giving some of these facts about New York, and at the close of the address, a southerner came forward and said to me: "I want you to tell me how all of those millions of folk, piled up so close together, get enough water to drink and food to eat." Having lived so long myself in the South, with its prodigality in the culinary department, I knew what was in his mind. And so I explained to him, in regard to the water, that a subterranean stream of pure water, flowing more than a hundred miles through mighty conduits, provides the city with a water supply which would furnish every human being in the world with more than a quart a day. There is not quite so much other liquid refreshment in New York as there used to be before the Eighteenth Amendment went into effect—though there is still a great deal of that—but we do have plenty of the finest water.

And as for the food, I explained to this southern friend that it requires 266 train loads of provisions to feed New York for a single week. Not 266 carloads, but 266 train loads. In other words, a solid freight train reaching from New York to Philadelphia, loaded with provisions, is needed to feed these 7,000,000 people for seven days. To give just an idea at this point I can mention the one item of milk. More than 2,000 tons of milk are brought into New York by the milk trains every day. There are 2,272,502 quarts, or an average of about 13 ounces for each resident of the city.

It can be seen from these facts how vitally important an orderly society and adequate and regular transportation are in New York, and how dangerous is the tying up of trains and ferries. During the labor disorders and the strikes last winter, there were times when there was a real menace from lack of food. If the strikes had gone on a little longer, doubtless I would have had to face the problem of where to get food for my children and the other members of my family.

Now, no thoughtful mind can fail to see that religion and the church of Christ have enormous interests at stake in the light of the tremendous facts which I have given about New York City. New York does profoundly influence all of America and the world. If we could see this city a truly Christian city, instead of a pagan city, as it is now, it would send out tides of righteous influence throughout the length and breadth of America and to the four quarters of the earth.

New York is the greatest missionary field upon the face of the globe today. The moral and religious needs of the people are pathetic, and the facts are staggering.

One thing is everlasting true: we must either Americanize and Christianize New York, or New York will speedily Europeanize and paganize us! Already the breaking down of the American Sabbath, the decay of old-fashioned home ideas, the weakening of the family life through divorce and marital infidelity, the inroads of rationalism in religion, an appalling worldliness within the churches and the red flood of radicalism and anarchy are menacing the very foundations of our Anglo-Saxon life.

Of these teeming millions, only thirty per cent are connected with any

sort of religious organization—either Jewish, Catholic or Protestant. Think of that, my reader, and let the import of that tremendous fact sink home into your heart. Only thirty out of each hundred of this great pathetic mass who give any recognition to God in any form.

If Jesus walked these streets again in the flesh, His heart would break with compassion, and once more His tears would flow as He beheld these multitudes, literally "like sheep without a shepherd."

At every opportunity, I ask my co-religionists here: What are we, His followers, going to do about it all? Shut up our churches during the four summer months, as many do? Lower the flag? Continue through our skeptical seminaries to put animated question marks in the pulpits instead of true prophets of God? Preach a thousand foolish fads instead of the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ?

What are we going to do about it? After having lived in many parts of our country, and as the result of careful observation and meditation, I give it as the profound conviction of my heart and mind that New York is the greatest religious problem of the world today. In a very real sense, New York sets the pace, and what she does is copied and followed right down the line. Only last summer, on two different trips I made, I heard the silly, sensuous songs from Broadway being sung. The first trip was down into the mountains—a little hamlet in North Carolina. Then I jumped all the way up to Canada, and heard those same songs being rattled on the piano and sung by the young people in a Canadian home.

Yes, what are we going to do about it? For, believe me, my reader, we have got to do something about it!

Listen! In the Times Square of New York there are 100 blocks. Starting at 28th street on the south and running to 48th street on the north, starting with Park avenue on the east and running to Eighth avenue on the west, there are just 100 squares. Within this territory there are two Jewish synagogues, four Catholic churches and 13 Protestant churches. These churches have a combined seating capacity of 16,400. An investigation was made a short time ago as to attendance, and on Sunday evenings, with very advantageous weather conditions, there were only 1,817 persons in attendance by actual count in all the churches of the entire district.

What is the matter? In this same district there are 45 theaters and 10 moving picture houses, with a combined seating capacity of 78,027. On the Sunday night when there were only 1,817 persons in all the churches, there must have been as many as 75,000 in the theaters and movies, for the attendance each week at these places is now estimated to be a million men, women and children, and the Sabbath has come to be the most popular recreation day of the week. On Sunday evening, rain or shine, long lines of people can be seen before the box offices of the New York theaters and movie houses, waiting for an opportunity to pay fancy prices to get inside and listen to silly jokes and look at lewd women, with their gaudy tights and their painted cheeks.

Once more, what are we going to do about it, we Christians?—we people who have named the name of Jesus and who claim to be the "salt" of society? One thing is certainly true: If we continue much longer in the religious lines along which we have moved in this city in recent years, Protestantism will undoubtedly come to the end of its course. There are 107 fewer Protestant churches on Manhattan Island today than there were 10 years ago. The end, therefore, is in sight, unless radical and revolutionary changes are effected.

I give these facts not only to show what a tremendous city New York is, but also to impress upon all minds the startling difference today between those who seek "pleasure," even on Sunday, and those who seek the high things of life.

I do not mean to say that New York is the worst city on earth. It is not. In many respects it is one of the best of the big cities of the world. And New York is worse than other centers of population only because of the mixed population and the greater degree of congestion to which I have already referred. And again I repeat that the characteristic of New York are present also in greater or less degree everywhere else today. There are lessons, therefore, that we all need to learn, and there are truths that every patriotic, God-fearing American should now frankly take to heart.

If I am asked, consequently, what is the matter with New York, I will re-

ply by saying the same thing that is the matter with all America: we are on a joy ride when we ought to be at a prayer meeting! Our people are money mad and pleasure crazed. We do not realize the solemn grandeur of the times in which we live. Listen! We are still in the shadow of the most awful war that ever wasted the world. Ten millions of the youth of the race—10,000,000 dear lads—the picked flower of humanity are dead. They fell out of the air, they sank down into the sea, they were blown to bits by bombs of hellish power, and they were stabbed and shot and gassed and hacked into mince meat. Their poor bodies are rotting in the earth and under the sea, and it would require more than a year for their ghostly forms to march past a given point if they could once more walk the earth. And now, as an aftermath of war, half of the race is standing in the shadow of starvation, anarchy and disease. Now, in the face of all this, what are we doing in this favored and prosperous land? We are indulging in such orgy of extravagance and soft living and self-pleasing as our people have never dreamed before! The love of luxury, which spells always social decay, has gripped many, and the aim and object of a multitude of lives to day lies no higher than the pitiful and paltry purpose to make money, by fair means or foul, and then to spend it in the search for silly pleasures and selfish ease.

Yes, we are on a joy ride when we ought to be at a prayer meeting; and if we do not stop soon, God Almighty will stop us; and when the hand of Heaven is stretched out to stay a prodigal race, it falls heavily and spares not. May we take our warning and profit by the example of the past, and turn back to God and righteousness before it is too late!

SAYS N. C. TOBACCO CROP IMPROVING

Government Forecast for July Said State's Crop Larger Than Forecasted in June

Washington, Aug. 10.—The tobacco crop in Kentucky and Tennessee suffered most from adverse conditions during June, while in North Carolina and other Southern states the crop showed improvement, the department of agriculture's monthly report shows. There was a loss of 43,000,000 pounds in the prospective production for the country as forecast on August 1 conditions, as compared with the forecast of a month ago, the total being 889,000,000 pounds.

Kentucky's crop of 37,000,000 pounds in prospective production during July, and Tennessee lost 3,000,000 pounds, while North Carolina's crop improved to the extent of 12,000,000 pounds, and there were slight increases in other Southern tobacco-producing states.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO RUN FULL TERM

Those Counties Which Have Cut Valuation Must Get Money From Somewhere

Raleigh, Aug. 10.—Public schools in North Carolina are going to be kept open for the six full months as is provided for in the constitution, and counties are going to foot the bill without difficulty.

Failure of the counties to levy sufficient revenue to run the schools for the full period would have meant prosecutions by the state superintendent. Following reductions in property valuations earlier in the year fear was expressed as to whether the schools could be financed or not. Superintendent Brooks reminded the counties that the constitution called for six months schools and as head of the department of education he intends to see that provisions of the law are enforced.

Taxation is still puzzling in some counties, but assurance is given the educators here that the schools will be kept going without serious discomfiture to anybody.

California Narcotic Law

Santa Barbara, Cal.—Eight persons were arrested on a charge of selling liquor as a result of a raid in the town of Lompoc conducted by the city marshal, chief of police of Santa Maria, and 16 deputies. A woman and her son were sentenced to 90 days in jail and fined \$300 on the first charge, and \$300 on the second charge, and one other man received the same sentence. Several others also received heavy sentences. Under the new narcotic law, which went into effect through the state of California on August 1, jail sentences of from six months for the first offense to five years for a second are provided.

THIS SUMMER DRYEST IN THE TWIN CITY IN A GREAT MANY YEARS

Gardens Have Been Complete Failures and Crops Nearly Are Ruined

Winston-Salem Sentinel.

The present summer has been the driest in many years in this immediate section, it is stated. There has not been enough rain to soak the ground an inch deep since early in May, and consequently the gardens in the city and in sections close around have burned up. Because of the failure of early gardens, many people in the city decided after the shower a few days ago that they would plant for late vegetables. The showers caused the seed to germinate and now the small plants, such as beans, tomatoes, etc., are dying for the want of moisture.

What older people term a "settled rain" has not visited this section since last winter. The only rain since early in the spring has come in light showers. This city has not experienced such a thing as a whole day's rain this summer.

The raising of vegetables in Winston-Salem and part of the surrounding country, has been almost impossible this summer, and now it looks like as if late gardens will not be successful. On the higher places it is almost impossible to strike moisture by digging.

There have been some good rains around the city. For instance in the section around Mineral Springs, to the north, the crops look fairly well because of several good rains that did not reach the city. There has also been a fairly good season in the Clemmons section, and in a few instances the rain has reached the western limits of the city and stopped there. There have also been some good rains in the Kernersville section.

W. J. Hege, weather observer states that already this month there have been four days that the thermometer registered over 90, it having reached 99 on one of these days. The rainfall for the month to date has only been about a quarter of an inch.

During July the rain fell was two and one-half inches and during June it was only one inch. There were 19 days in July and 17 in June on which the thermometer registered over 90. The hottest day in July was 96 and in June it was 99.

Indications late Sunday afternoon pointed to a good rain in the city, as a dark cloud apparently was moving in this direction from the southwest, but just as the rain came in sight it seemed as if the cloud suddenly stopped and remained at a standstill. Someone has suggested that in a dry season the clouds are not attracted to the city because of the hot and crowded conditions, or rather because most of the earth is covered with buildings. Someone also said that in a dry spell the streams draw the clouds, which has apparently been the case this summer, as many of the clouds have formed and passed up or down the Yadkin river.

The people of Winston-Salem are thankful that the country around has been visited with rain, which has resulted in fairly good crops of farm products and late vegetables. Although very few things to eat have been produced in the city this summer, there is not a dearth of produce, as would have been the case if the dry weather had been general.

Rev. G. E. Pott, who recently returned from a motor trip to Pennsylvania, reports weather conditions in many sections as being similar to those in and around Winston-Salem. For instance in the community he was visiting there had been very little rain this summer, while close around the season has been very favorable. All along the road, he said, he found conditions as to rain about the same. One day he drove most of the time through rain, while at other times the roads were so dry and dusty that motoring was very unpleasant.

Conditions as reported by Mr. Pott exist all over North Carolina, according to statements from various communities. The western part of the state has been favored with a better season than the east, but in no part have the rains been general since last winter.

Commercial aviation has become so important in France that there is published a monthly timetable of air services operating in France and allied countries, giving such information as the time departure and arrival, type of plane employed, routes, weight of luggage allowed, rates, and so on.

Bringing Home American Dead

By Hal Walker in the Dearborn Independent.

Through the Graves Registration Service of the Quartermaster Corps, United States Army, thousands of bodies American soldiers who were killed in France are being brought to the United States, and it is estimated that all the 45,000 bodies which have been asked for by parents or relatives will have been brought to the homeland with all the honor due men who gave their lives in their country's need, by the end of the coming October. The work in France is under the direction of Colonel Harry F. Rethers, United States Army, and at present there are ten units in the field exhuming the bodies from the various cemeteries and sending them to ports of embarkation, Cherbourg and Antwerp, under military guard. When they arrive at the port of embarkation, the flag-draped coffins are under constant watch of a guard of honor until they are placed aboard the transport which is to bear them to the United States.

The task of bringing these bodies home is a mammoth one. Each one must be identified when it is disinterred, the final identification being made by means of the teeth chart which is filed with every officer and man when he enters the service. This teeth chart identification makes the identity of the body absolute and the examination is made by a commissioned officer of the army and an anatomist when the disinterment is made. Then the body is placed in a new casket and is ready for forwarding.

Up to the present time 14,646 bodies have been brought to the United States. At the present writing there are 3,124 bodies in the field ready for forwarding to ports of embarkation, and at the ports there are 4,035 bodies awaiting transports to bring them to the United States. From these figures it will be seen that practically half the bodies which are to be brought are already on their way. Most of the smaller cemeteries have been gone through and the bodies requested removed. Work is about to begin in the big cemeteries, and at Romagne alone, the great Argonne cemetery, it is estimated that the work of disinterment will take five full months.

There is at present in France a commission which will choose the four permanent fields of honor in which nearly 30,000 bodies will remain permanently in the soil of the land where they gave their lives.

With the concentration of the bodies before Memorial Day, 1922, the task of decoration and services will be much simplified as nearly all the bodies by that time will be in the four permanent fields of honor. In the removal of the bodies from the scattered cemeteries, which is now going on, Colonel Rethers pays a high tribute to the French, both military and civilian, for their tact and touching sympathy shown members of the service who are exhuming the bodies. On many occasions the French have held special services as the last bodies were sent away.

The work of disinterring the bodies in France will be finished shortly after the same work in England and Italy. The bodies in Great Britain will all be concentrated, about 700 in number, at Brookwood just outside London, which will be the permanent field of honor in Great Britain. The bodies now in Italy, less than a hundred, are being disinterred this summer, some will be sent to relatives, who wish them, in the United States, and the others will be placed permanently in one of the fields of France.

In the task of disinterment as far as possible the work is in the hands of men who served in the army in France and every respect is therefore paid to the bodies of their "buddies" which they prepare for their last long journey.

Raleigh's Pool Has Been Pumped Dry

Raleigh, Aug. 9.—The work of draining Cemetery Lake, the state of North Carolina's old rock quarry in East Raleigh, was virtually completed today without disclosing any "evidence of crime." The state buildings and grounds committee authorized the work begun a week ago because of belief that stolen automobiles had been submerged.

The seven million gallons of water in the lake, the accumulation of years, has been pumped out by gasoline engines working night and day during the week. Hopes of city and county officials that drainage of the lake would reveal clues which might lead to arrests were blasted when only mud, trash and scrap iron were uncovered.