

## Forum of Student Thought

Best Examples of Theme Writing Currently Done in the High Schools of North Carolina

IN. B.—A \$20 cash prize is awarded every month for the best composition published in this department. Competition absolutely free. No condition except school grade of "excellent." Address State Bureau, Carter's Weekly, Raleigh, N. C.]

### PRIZE AWARD FOR FEBRUARY.

The Twenty Dollar Prize given for the best composition entered in our Prize Competition for last month has been awarded to "Easter" by Elizabeth Baker, of Raleigh.

This selection was made by Miss Susan Iden, who was the judge of the work submitted last month. Miss Iden is the City Editor of the Raleigh Times. In order that her judgment might be rendered doubly sure Miss Iden called to her aid the experience of co-worker in the newspaper field. Rendered separately and distinctly, their decisions were the same. And were based on the same recognition of merit, beauty and clarity of thought, and clearness and simplicity of expression.

Through these contests we hope to encourage the habit of self expression in the young people of this State. In the past North Carolina has suffered much loss through a feeling of reluctance in those who were young, to giving expression to the things that most occupied their thoughts.

As the world stands today, the State cannot afford to miss the thoughts of the young for they are the builders of the new world of tomorrow.

### WILSON

Mary Shelton Batchelor—Junior Year High School Raleigh, N. C.

It is to the glory of our country that she had a Washington—a general without ambition for self, pure in character, lofty in ideals, and a statesman who formed a stable democratic government of the people, for the people, and by the people and proved that a people can govern themselves.

Today we have added to the great names of all times that of another

statesman—Wilson—equally as grand, unselfish, and pure in character, as Washington. Wilson has upheld the banner of Democracy not only over America, but before the whole world. Washington made America democratic and Wilson is making the whole world so. At Yorktown the American soldier won liberty for himself but at Chateau Thierry the American soldier won liberty for the world. Washington brought peace to our people. Wilson through his League of Nations will bring peace to the world.

Wilson started life as a poor boy and all the work that he ever did was done so well that it led to his immediate promotion. His chosen profession was teaching and in this he rapidly rose to the head of one of the foremost of American colleges. In this work he made such a reputation that he was elected Governor on the Democratic ticket in a state which was generally Republican. After this he was rewarded by the election to the Presidency. Mr. Wilson had hardly been a year in office when the world was cast into eruption by the ambition of Germany. With infinite diplomatic skill, Mr. Wilson kept his country free from all entanglements for more than two years. During this time he was subject to the most bitter criticism by the two factions, one demanding peace at any price, the other that the United States should enter the war immediately. When the time for action came, his action was decisive. By skilful use of the powers of the government he so bridged the Atlantic that he was enabled to throw a million and a half men to the rescue of Europe in a space of time which was simply marvelous.

The sending of the American troops to Europe ended the war and with the end of the war the problems of peace arose. With these, Mr. Wilson dealt with a comprehensive grasp for he wanted a peace which would be lasting.

To this end he insisted that there should be a league of all the nations of the earth. This plan succeeded but meanwhile Mr. Wilson's enemies, which all truly great men have had stirred up opposition to his plan

which prevented America from taking her place in it as the foremost.

Up to this time America has ruled America, but today America rules the world. We feed the world's hungry. We clothe the world's naked. Our flag is a symbol of mercy everywhere. Wilson is the arbiter of the fate of the world. To his judgment kings bow, prime ministers yield, and the whole world today awaits his decision.

### IS SOCIALISM A MENACE?

This country has been strongly opposed to Prohibition, and the people snouted it under in this State in 1881 by a majority of about 70,000. There is a strong sentiment abroad now that the people are not in favor of the present prohibition Amendment.

It is so also with female suffrage. This State is afraid of the Anthony amendment. The Legislature was not in favor of it when it adjourned and is not now, nor are the people of the State in favor of it. This is a Rip Van Winkle state. Others lead and they come in later. They hate to be in a lonesome and cold minority, but not enough to volunteer to go up to Raleigh and vote it thru without pay. No sir.

This State thanks God for South Carolina lest it be the TAIL in education and in bonded indebtedness, but its margin is small.

The question is asked, is the Legislature the people? and its plain as can be it is not. It is only a very small part of the people and is just as likely to be different from the people as to be with them.

The lords of the land are as likely to differ among themselves as they are to differ from the common people; as Washington discloses on the peace question.

Education never made people of ONE mind: only the Christian religion can, and it seldom does. The ideas and views held by men, high or low, rich or poor, saint or sinner differ largely and variously everywhere.

Experience, reading, association, study and thought bring men together and cause them to see alike to some extent, but 9 out of 10 will differ till they die; in details if not in the main; agreeing to disagree.

Socialism is a presentation of another government differing from the one in force: its another view. Had the socialistic laws passed, and views held by the Wilson administration been attempted 30 years ago I verily believe there would have been civil war. The tendency of the age is toward socialism; a sort of patriotism.

Many things in a thickly settled civilization DEMAND paternalism; they belong to the people and individuals cannot claim them. The railroads, the telephones, the express, the street car lines, lighting plants, etc., are as much public necessities as the postoffice.

For years the express companies prevented a parcel post and reaped a golden harvest, and but for the government control of the postoffice postage would likely be 500 percent above the present rate. But it took 100 years to make the postoffice honest and to get money passed in plain letters. It would take some time to get an honest railroad and telephone set.

County commissioners, legislators and congress are as reckless with public money as a child with its playthings; they have no limit to extravagance and trials but the treasury, or the patience of a suffering people. They have no sense of public economy.

The short trial of government ownership of railroads was a failure in efficiency. The telephone was worse than that. In the face of this where does Socialism come in? And yet it is coming. Like policies of the Third Party that have all been adopted by the existing parties. It comes stealthily and steadily.

Socialism is everywhere. Its German or French, Italian or British phase may not attract us; the Soviet and Bolshevick methods may disgust, but like the Leprosy there seems to be no cure. The railroad strikes, the coal strikes and others are telling us something must be done and shall be done.

Certain things are communistic and must be so managed: and the older we grow the MORE become so. We are growing into a family over the entire world. "Beware of entangling alliances with the rest of the world" was advice for 200 years ago, but today we are a part of the world and every man is our neighbor. The cry for a national head, for national law and the League of Nations is the spirit of the age. We cannot escape it.

Men are pondering, planning and attempting but we can never avert the inevitable.

Will Republican or Democratic policies or Liberalism or Socialism give us what we want?

A change has come, and a time for change is here, and those who stand before it must go down.

Its not a monarchy or Democracy that threatens or holds the reins; its a Head, a Law, a Constitution, a Commission or Sovietie that has an ideal

or plan that works no ill but uplifts and gives the world progress.

Can Socialism fill the bill? What method has the solons? The people, like Russia, are demanding a change, and a change is coming.

W. T. CUTCHIN.

Chapel Hill, N. C., March 12, 1920.

### W. C. COFFEY DIES AT HIS HOME IN BOONE


Boone, March 15.—Mr. W. C. Coffey, of Boone, one of the oldest and most substantial and prominent citizens of Boone and Watauga County, died at his home at 8 P. M., on Wednesday, after an attack of influenza of several days during which time he never seemed to regain consciousness.

Mr. Coffey was born in Caldwell county April 3, 1839, and was therefore nearly 81 years of age. He was one of sixteen children, being reared on the Yadkin just above Patterson. He was distinguished for his financial ability. When a young man he left

home with just 3 cents in his pocket, went to Tennessee, and bought a store on credit, but succeeded wonderfully. Later he came to Zionville of this county, and then moved to Boone about 1870, and he and his brother, Mr. T. F. Coffey, entered merchandising as partners. In the meantime he married Miss Carrie Curtis, of Wilkes County, in 1866, after he and three brothers had served through the Civil war without a wound. After a most successful business career in Boone he retired some years ago having amassed a fortune.

### FOUR LOST WHEN GALE DRIVES U-BOAT ON ROCKS

San Diego, Calif., March 14.—Lieutenant Commander James R. Webb and three members of his crew were lost when the United States submarine H-1, went aground at the entrance to Magdalena bay, lower Calif., according to a radio dispatch received here today.



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