

# A Colyum Of Thoughts From Here There, Yonder

(By W. BRODIE JONES)

This is the spring before they nominate candidates in the summer to run in the Fall.

It is early and before Time brings us into another political campaign, we would urge that this year be a year free from mud slinging, political backbiting, and envy given voice through odious charges.

Personal denunciation will not cure the evils—it only breeds distrust and dissatisfaction. It only parades before the State a narrowness of which we should feel ashamed and creates an element of anger which makes true co-operation and progress impossible.

Indeed there should be candidates and there will. The duty of the citizenship is to measure the things for which these candidates stand and vote as their best judgement dictates—the mind, not envy or jealousy or hate should be in evidence at the ballot.

Would that the same spirit which is in evidence upon the football field and in athletic good sportsmanship might govern a race for office in Warren county. Would that our candidates might be good sports and play the game accordingly.

Would that we might have a campaign free of mudslinging and an atmosphere free of the poisonous gas of the Other Fellow's Sins.

"This government the offspring of our own choice, unfinanced and unawed, has a just claim on your confidence and your support. \* \* \* Respect for its authority, compliance with its laws, acquiescence in its measures, are duties enjoined by the fundamental maxims of liberty."—Washington's Farewell Address.

A statement of the Armenian drive is given in the editorial columns of this issue. The county's quota was oversubscribed.

**Look's Suspicious.**  
"Frozen River Cuts City's Milk Supply."—Headline in the Portland Oregonian.

**Horses that Bark**  
Country Notice—"It is forbidden to tie horses to trees, as they bark and destroy the trees."—Boston Transcript.

**His Line**  
"What do you work at, my poor man?"  
"At intervals, lady."—St. Paul Non-Partizan Leader.

**No Fair Telling.**  
Customer—"How can one tell the imitation pearl from the real ones?"  
Salesman—"Ah, madam, you do not tell—you just keep it to yourself."—New York World.

**Or Maybe Died of Shock**  
Altho the man found dead in a bathtub has not been positively identified, it has definitely been determined that he was not a member of the Bolsheviks. —New York Telegraph.

Aunt Nellie—"Well, Bobby, dear, did you see Santa Claus this time?"  
Bobby—"No, auntie; it was too dark to see him, but I heard what he said when he knocked his toe against the bedpost."—London Tit-Bits.

First Office Boy—"I told the boss to look at the dark circles under my eyes and see if I didn't need a half day off."  
Second Office Boy—"What did he say?"

First Office Boy—"He said I needed a bar of soap."—The American Legion Weekly.

Possibly the apex of sarcasm or something was reached the other day when Jones took his fiver to a repair shop and asked the man there what was the best thing to do with it.

The repair-man looked the car over in silence for several minutes, after which he grasped the horn and tooted it. "You've a good horn there," he remarked, quietly. "Suppose you jack it up and run a new car under it?" — Boston Transcript.

**The Human Dud.**  
While he was making his way about his platoon one dark night a sergeant heard the roar of a "G. I. Can" overhead and dived into a shell-hole. It was already occupied by a private, who was hit full in the wind by the non-com's head. A moment's silence—a long, deep breath, and then—"That's me."  
"Good Lord, is that you, Sarge?"  
"That's me."  
"Thank Heaven! I was just waiting for you to explode."—The American Legion Weekly.

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A SEMI-WEEKLY NEWSPAPER DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF WARRENTON AND WARREN COUNTY

## Equalization Is Right Valuation Is Too High

### Land Which is Set on Hill and Can't be Hid Will be Forced to Bear Under Peak Valuation Larger Proportion of Taxes Than Its Share.

The Governor of North Carolina has taken for his text the following: "Ye shall know the Truth and the Truth shall make ye free" and applied it to the "re-valuation Act" to prove his contention that justice is being done to the people as a whole and the North Carolina farmer in particular.

The North Carolina farmer has never asked favoritism, he has been and is now ready to bear all just burdens of taxation, but in doing so, he desires that they be just burdens. He does not desire to place any unjust burden on the other citizens of the State whose pecuniary interests are not directly invested in farms. In fact, if we read the signs aright, the farmer leans to that system of taxation which will take care of the interests of all home owners, rural and urban. "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make ye free" is a glorious text, and the Truth is what every citizen should seek after. Therefore we are going to give the truth from the standpoint of the farmer and home owner as we see it, and the reasons for the "Faith that is in us."

In the first place we believe that farm lands are valued on an inflated basis—not a true value. That this value may be based upon what the owner may think it worth as his home is not a true value in money, unless and until its actual value is determined by a bona fide sale. How is the State hurt if Bill Smith owns a home and is paying a reasonable tax upon a reasonable value and don't want to sell, if Bill Jones is willing to pay in spot cash three times the value Smith puts upon it? Isn't Jones's money paying the same rate of tax that Smith's land is paying (provided always that Jones's money is listed for taxation? Is the State hurt if Smith keeps his land and Jones his money—one lending the money and the other working the land? The answer is No, provided Smith's land is paying the same rate of tax that Jones's money is paying, and provided further that Smith's land has a just valuation upon it.

It is admitted that the lands and homes of North Carolina have in most cases been valued too low if the present high-price level is to be maintained, but be it remembered that it has only been two years since the farmer has emerged from the "Valley of Despondency" and placed his feet upon the mountain top of just remuneration for his toil, and worse still, for the toil of his wife and children. It has not been just "seven lean years," it has been a life-time of struggle and deprivation, of sacrifice, of debt. Because the "seven fat years" have apparently arrived, shall not the farmer be allowed to gather in his barn and store house for the years ahead? "Will you let my people go?" Will you run up three, four, five, six, seven times the value of their property (the stuff that cannot be hid under a bushel) and promise a low rate, that must under any and all conditions place the State's burden of tax upon land and visible personal property, and also continue to ask him to pay taxes upon his debts?

I don't want to be misunderstood in advocating the pre-War valuations for lands, for I believe a new era has come upon us and that with the Farmers Land Banks and the Farmers' Co-operative Banks, with good roads, Rural mail, Rural telephones, Parcel Post and the Automobile rural conditions have taken from country life much of its isolation and that the day grows brighter for the farmer. Therefore, as these conditions are general, I believe that farm lands in general should be re-valued. But it seems to me that the State Tax Commission, under authority of the Legislature, has gone wild over the matter. Looking to the future and profiting by the observations of the Past, I believe it will be but a short time before the intangible property will recede from

view and leave the lands and the personal property the only haven of taxation for the State, until another "furry" to get out the invisible arrives and another Legislature comes along (and let us hope it will be a long time) that will deliberately say "we don't need any more money, the State has all it needs, but we want to lower the rate and increase the value. And they lowered the rate on all intangible wealth without increasing the value (which all knew) and then placed the same rate on farm lands, but increased the value.

There is no trouble with the re-valuation Act, properly administered. I say properly administered. Therein lies the "body of death," or the "spirit of Life," depending upon its application to the conditions now confronting our citizens. The Governor's "pound of remedy" should have been the "ounce of preventive." If two neighbors who are Free-holders can prescribe the remedy to cure the high valuation complaint, then those two neighbors could have prevented the complaint. If the oath of these two neighbors will govern value and incidentally rate, why not have let them quietly gone about it and made this valuation in the first place. Why was it necessary to raise valuation from three to seven times (in Warren county) in order to persuade the intangible wealth of other counties and cities to come into view for taxation? Why not (under the re-valuation Act) bring out this "millions of hidden wealth," raised the valuations of lands to a sane and just value, then lowered the rate? It seems to me that the State should have brought out the "millions" which they point to with pride as having been brought to light (never having paid any tax) and raised homes and lands in keeping with the idea that Agriculture and Home owning should be fostered, then lowered the rate to meet the needs of the State.

Here's the trouble (or at least some of the trouble) that causes the State to place such high valuation on the visible (because the rate can be fixed any time): We quote from the "Country Gentleman" of February 21, 1920:—"Congressman Nelson, of Wisconsin, at a recent hearing before the Banking and Currency Committee of the House stated that there will be outstanding at the end of this year \$9,000,000,000 (Nine Billions) of municipal, county and state bonds exempt from taxation; that there are outstanding \$3,000,000,000 of mutual savings bank securities exempt from taxation; that there are in the hands of investors \$1,700,000,000 of mutual building and loan association securities, not to mention \$4,000,000,000 of first and last Liberty Bonds and \$100,000,000 Federal Reserve Bank stock—All Exempt from Taxation."

Herbert Quick from whose article on the advantage of the Federal Land Banks to the farmer (a Democratic measure by-the-way) speaking of the freedom from taxation of these farm mortgages and their desirability as guilt-edge security and of the great good this measure had achieved, loaning within three years to farmers \$320,000,000 with many millions more added each week, says of intangible wealth:

"When farm mortgages or bonds issued on farm mortgages in order to obtain the money for loaning purposes are taxed, one of two things take place: Either people with money to loan refuse to make the loans and money becomes unobtainable on any terms or they wait until the interest rate plus bonuses, commissions and the like go up to the point where the borrower pays the tax and the interest rate too. Taxation of these evidences of indebtedness means just this, and nothing more—the farmer, after paying taxes on his land and houses and livestock and his income and on every thing that is his, is called upon in the form of higher interest rates to pay Taxes on That Which He Hath Not—

His Debts. (Italics ours) Nay, he is made to pay taxes on things that put him in the hole—that are worse than nothing."

Mr. Quick was comparing the old method of bonuses, commissions, land, etc., with the new method of non-taxable farm mortgages held by the Federal Land Banks, under which the farmer pays a low rate of interest and retires his mortgage by means of small yearly payments. But the point which struck me forcibly was the fact that the farmer (in the opinion of Mr. Quick) should not pay taxes on his debts. If his lands must be valued at a high valuation, then in the name of justice let the next General Assembly relieve him of the burden of paying taxes on his debts.

And this principle should apply to every class. If the Merchant or Banker borrows money, or the farmer then he should pay interest on this money, but not taxes.

It may be that the fable of the Boy and the Farmer will apply to taxation: the new method of harshness; but I rather incline to the view of the fable of the Wind and the Sun in their wager over who would first take off the traveller's coat. The Wind tried with all its might, it raged and tore, but the traveller held his coat closely about him and went on his journey. Then the Sun tried, and with warm rays and sunny smile soon had him puffing and sweating, and off came the coat. Mild methods are often and generally better than harshness. If the money, stocks, bonds, Trust funds and all evidences of wealth could be assured of fair dealing, along with farm lands, then all this furry and scare would be unnecessary. But if the patient is to be taken in hand by the "two neighbors" and value changed at any time before tax listing who can tell what the value will be, and as the rate is based upon value, then the appeal to solvent credits to come out and stand up to be measured is a delusion, for it has nothing to be measured by of fixed value—any two neighbors can change it, upon oath. And if that is so (and that is offered as a "remedy") then solvent credits like the Ground Hog will disappear, having seen the shadow. "Coming events cast their shadows before," and the coming event in North Carolina is that the Legislature of July must find a mild and just remedy for the uncertainties that now confront us.

It should assure Capital that it must bear its burden of taxation, but only its just burden. It should assure Labor another form of capital) that because it is "set upon a hill and that its light cannot be hidden," that it will be dealt with as justly as Capital. It should assure the Citizen that his effort to better his material condition will not be handicapped by a tax upon this effort and it should assure Labor that the State will place within its reach all the tools necessary to carve out its own position as a self-respecting, law abiding, educated part of our Citizenry. Do this sanely, justly, yet firmly, and the State will progress as never before and will find itself with ample funds to carry forward any work for the uplift of our citizens that any other progressive Commonwealth has done. But Reason must hold sway and the glitter of "untold millions" coming to our State must not hide the fact, that ours is an Agricultural State; one that hath come out of great tribulations, and one fast reaching the glorious sunlight bursting upon the misty mountain tops of Progress.

"Let us go slow" in this matter of re-valuation; let us be just, and no complaint will reach those who are charged with public service.

But unless those in authority take steps to "reason the thing out," rather than force it upon us by the strong arm of Law, we fear that good men will find that they have lost their usefulness to the State and that instead of steady and sane progress, the pendulum will swing toward retrogradation. Equal values where needed, raised values where they should be raised, but in all common sense take them down from the post-war, cheap-money value endorsed by the State Tax Commission. It is not just, it is not for the best interest of the tax payers; it is not for the best interest of the present Administration. It is an unnecessary departure from the old Landmarks and it places the home owner where he cannot protect himself except with the ballot.

The things that I have said are but the echoing sentiments of the average citizen and they are said in his behalf. They must, they should be heeded—and I believe they will.

HOWARD F. JONES,  
Associate Editor.

## LETTER FROM NAMES HEADS MR. GRAHAM OF DIVISIONS

Head of County Law Enforcement Campaign Asks Co-operation of Citizens

LAW ENFORCEMENT NOT PROHIBITION IS THE ISSUE

Calls Upon All Citizens And Especially Soldiers and Other Young Men To Aid In Fight Against Moonshine.

Editor Record,  
My dear Sir:

Again I call to the attention of our citizens the absolute necessity, if we wish to preserve our standard of morality, of ending illicit distilling and selling of whiskey.

Federal and State officials are willing and anxious to help. Prohibition is not the question, Law Enforcement is.

It is the duty of all citizens to see that our laws are enforced. Let Law Enforcement clubs be organized in each of our Townships. Let the chairmen of these clubs meet at least once a month in Warrenton and make report to the Revenue Department of any information they may have. Let every man or woman in the county who knows or hears of a still or sales-place report the same to the local committee, giving location, and if possible the names of the owners and operators. These communications need not necessarily be signed if the writer is apprehensive of personal injury. The County chairman can communicate directly with the Revenue Officials and results will be obtained. Our colored fellow citizens are as much interested in Law enforcement as are all white citizens and can render valuable assistance in ridding the county of violators of the Law.

I appeal especially to our young soldiers who followed Perishing and Haig over the blood stained fields of France and Belgium and to those equally worthy who were deprived of that privilege, to take the lead in this campaign and restore Warren, the birthplace of Nat. Macon, the Braggs, Turner, Hawkins, Edwards, Hall and other distinguished patriots to its former proud preeminence in our beloved commonwealth.

JOHN GRAHAM.

## Letter From County Agent

The time has come when we cannot count on a supply of luscious fruits from our home orchards without devoting considerable time and labor to the proper care of our orchards. In sections of the country where fruit is grown on a commercial scale the fruit growers tend their orchards with same care that we tend our tobacco and cotton crops in this county.

Pruning of the orchards should be done during the dormant seasons, that is in the late fall, or winter months. Pruning should be completed before the sap begins to rise in the spring. There are several reasons why trees should be pruned. Some of the important reasons for pruning are (1) To maintain a proper shape or symmetry of the tree; (2) To control the character of growth; (3) To allow the entrance of sun light and air; (4) To control the proper fruiting of the tree. In order to prune fruit trees successfully one must understand the fruiting habit of the particular kind of tree to be pruned. For example peaches are formed usually in pairs on wood of the previous seasons growth. Apples are formed on fruit spurs found on older wood. Peach trees should be pruned to an open center and the main branches should be kept short and fairly close to the ground. Apple trees should be pruned regularly and a modified center is usually preferred as the apple is often damaged by sun scald when pruned to an open center. Any one desiring detailed information on the subject of pruning can secure same by writing to the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, Raleigh, N. C., and asking for bulletins on the subject of pruning.

Orchards should be sprayed at this season of the year with some form of lime-sulphur solution for the control of the San Jose scale. Commercial lime-

(Continued On Fourth Page)

Mrs. J. E. Rooker Appointed Vice-Chairman of Organization For Coming Year

HOME SERVICE TO HELP SOLDIERS ON INSURANCE

And Straighten Other Matters Reference Vocational Training and Allotments; Campaign For Magazine Subscribers.

Mrs. Katharine P. Arrington, chairman of the Warren county Red Cross Chapter, announced today the appointments upon committees representing the spheres of the Chapter's work. The elected officers are J. Edward Allen, Treasurer, Mrs. E. A. Thorne, secretary and the vice-chairmanship to which Mrs. W. R. Strickland was elected but which she has resigned to become a member of the nursing committee.

The appointments include—Mrs. J. E. Rooker, throughout the war in charge of the division of production and whose work won praise everywhere, as vice-chairman.

Miss Edith Burwell as head of the committee on membership.

V. F. Ward, R. B. Boyd, T. D. Peck, W. B. Boyd and W. G. Rogers as a committee of finance.

Frank H. Gibbs, Mrs. E. A. Thorne and Welfare officer R. R. Rodwell as a committee on home service.

John B. Palmer, Dr. G. H. Macon, J. Edward Allen, C. C. Hunter—members of the county Board of Health—and B. E. Williams, Dr. N. D. Morton, Mrs. W. R. Strickland, Miss Julia Dameron, Mrs. Limeberger, of Norlina, Mrs. Charlotte Story Perkinson, of Wise, and chairman W. N. Boyd as the Public Health Nursing committee to direct the work of the nurse employed by the Red Cross Chapter and who is expected to report within six weeks.

W. Brodie Jones was named as chairman of publicity.

The chapter urges all men who wish information in reference to insurance, vocational training or allotments to consult any member of the Home Service committee by whom an earnest effort will be made in each instance to provide the necessary information and assistance.

Another chapter activity which will engage attention under the head of Membership will be a canvass for subscribers to the Red Cross Magazine. This is a publication of appealing interest and it is the desire of the Chapter Executive committee that many members of the Red Cross subscribe in order that the general public may be kept conversant and interested in the peace time program of the organization.

## Death Claims Mr. C. Percy Thornton

Cecil Percy Thornton, son of the late R. B. Thornton and Rebecca Thornton, died at his home in Macon Sunday night, after a short illness.

Mr. Thornton was thirty years old, a member of the Methodist church and of the Masonic fraternity. His death was due to pneumonia and a weak heart which exempted him from service in the recent war. He was a gentleman of many friends as attested by the concourse which gathered to lay his earthly remains in the silent tomb. Every store in his home town was closed in honor of his memory and friends from a distance were present to pay the last tribute of respect.

Mr. Thornton is survived by the following brothers and sisters: Mrs. J. S. Nowell, Miss Lucy Thornton, Frank and Raymond Thornton, of Macon; N. Macon Thornton, of Littleton; Mrs. Dan Lawrence, of Sanford; Mrs. Charlotte Sharpe, of Fayetteville. He was connected with many of the families of Macon and these and many friends mourn their loss.

The funeral was conducted from the home with Dr. J. T. Gibbs, his pastor, and W. R. Vaughan, Master of the Vaughan Lodge, officiating. Masons from Vaughan, Littleton and Warrenton assembled to participate in the burial exercise, and his body was committed to the grave—"Heaven's Golden gate"—to await the Resurrection Morn-

Dare to do right.